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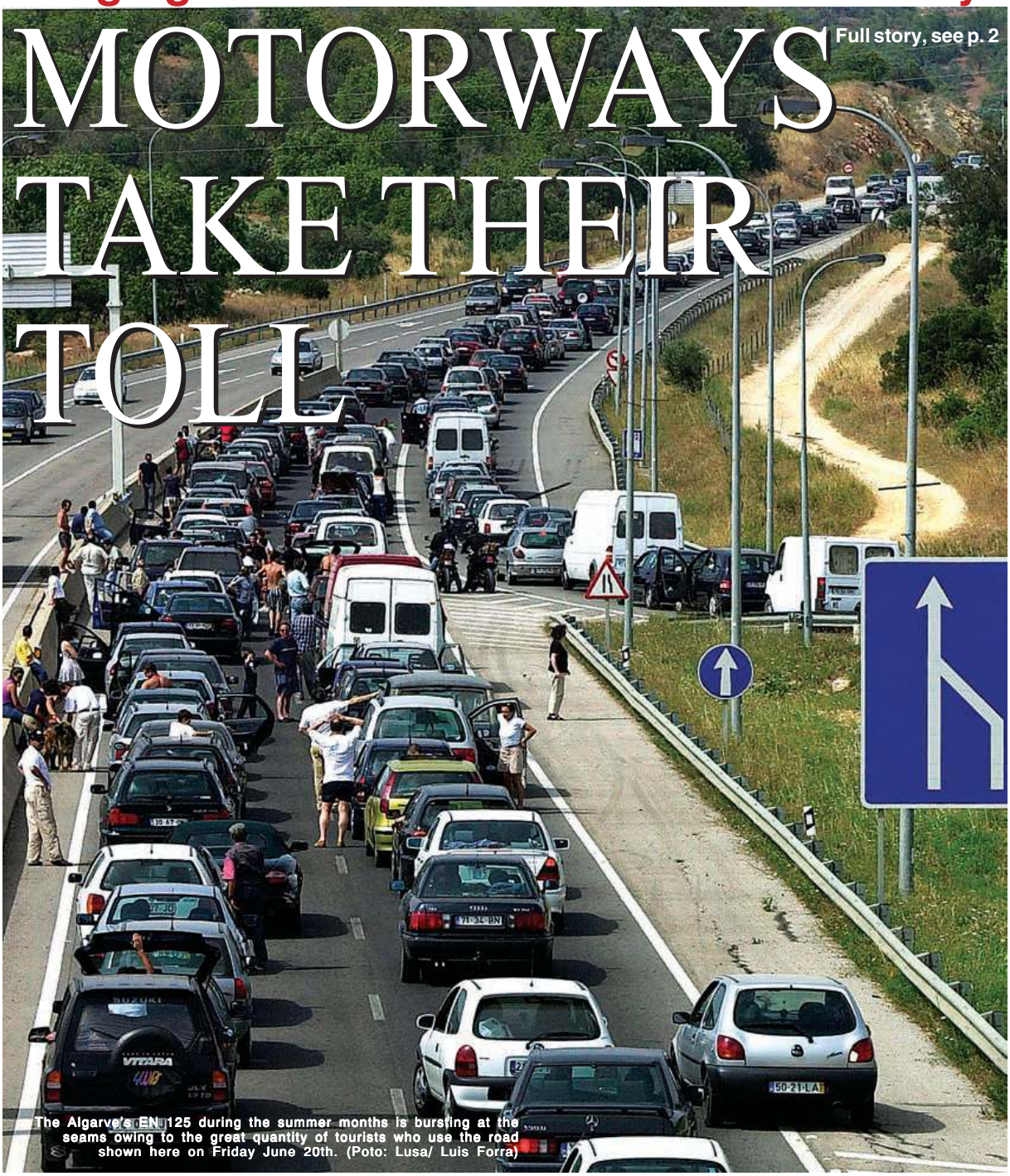
Government risks Algarve wrath as it looks at charging tolls on all of nation's free motorways



The Algarve's EN 125 during the summer months is bursting at the seams owing to the great quantity of tourists who use the road shown here on Friday June 20th. (Poto: Lusa/ Luis Forra)

Politicians look for high tension solution

Algarve-elected Socialist Party (PS) MPs have this week stressed that the lines of communication must remain open to find a solution for the proposed Portimão-Tunes high tension line, so as to protect the best interests of both the population and the environment. (See Page 4)

Lisbon tops for quality of living

Lisbon has, for the third consecutive year, made Monocle Magazine's 'Top 25 cities with best quality of life' list, reaffirming its burgeoning reputation as being one of Europe's most promising capitals. (See Page 7)

Algarve aims to be amongst world's top destinations for disabled

Government and tourism officials have confirmed their intention to re-invent the Algarve as one of the world's leading destinations for tourists with disabilities. (See Page 8)

Beja airport population boom

A municipal study carried out in Beja indicates that the city could see its local population boosted by some 22,000 inhabitants over the next decade thanks to the potential created by regional development such as the new airport, and Alentejo tourism. (See Page 12)

Seven of the best

A weapon of mass destruction was unleashed this week and North Korea has been the unwilling recipient. It now all boils down to whether Portugal can repeat its heroics on Monday against Brazil this Friday. (See Page 64)

Weekend weather

Lisbon: Summer will continue this weekend in the capital, with blue skies thermometers sitting very near the 30-degree mark. **Faro:** The Algarve will continue to swelter, and beach goers are advised to protect themselves against the high UV ratings forecast for much of next week. Summer too will reign in **the north**, though there is a chance of some thundershowers on Saturday and scattered showers the following day.

THE PORTUGAL News

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Contacts

Postal Address: Apt 13 • 8401-901 • Lagoa
Courier: Rua Município de S. Domingos • Urb. Lagoa Sol • Lote 3 r/c • 8400-415 Lagoa
Tel: 707 500 655 (+351 282 341 100)
Newsdesk: 707 500 655 (+351 282 380 313)
Sales: 707 500 677 (+351 282 380 310)
Classified: 707 500 646 (+351 282 380 315)
Fax: Gen 707 941 201 (+351 282 341 201)
Fax: Sales: 707 942 053 (+351 282 352 053)
Email: info@theportugalnews.com
sales@theportugalnews.com
Web: www.theportugalnews.com

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Production

Publisher: Paul Luckman • publisher@theportugalnews.com
Editor: Brendan de Beer • newsdesk@theportugalnews.com
Production: Madeline Luckman • copy@theportugalnews.com
Journalists: Carrie-Marie Bratley • Tommy Broad
Classifieds: Rebecca Andrade
Paws & Claws: Raquel Salbany
Travel: Sherry Hughes
Photos: LUSA • Press Association • Portugal News

Sales Team

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Motorways take their toll

Brendan de Beer

Driving from Lagos to Vila Real do Santo António and back could soon cost motorists using the Algarve's only motorway a total estimated value of €21,30.

A protestor seen here in Oporto demonstrating against the government's decision to introduce tolls on previously free motorways in the north of the country. Similar scenes could be repeated in the Algarve should the government accept proposals to charge tolls on the A22. (Photo: Lusa/José Coelho)

An ultimatum set this week by the largest opposition party to the minority government is calling for equality on all the nation's motorways – "either all drivers pay to travel on the eight existing motorways which have no tolls or they remain free". With these so-called SCUT (from the Portuguese acronym for toll-free) motorways currently costing the taxpayer 700 million euros a year, the cash-strapped government might just be willing to have its hand "forced" by the Social Democrats and charge tolls across the country. This move will not win the ruling-Socialists any favours with the electorate, but having the largest opposition party's support will minimise any substantial losses at ballot boxes in three year's time.

Protests by motorists in northern Portugal this week, which "exceeded expectations" according to organisers, could spread to the south should the government decide to levy tolls on the A22.

As revealed in last week's edition of **The Portugal News**, leaders from all across the political spectrum in this tourist-dependant region said they would oppose the introduction of tolls on the A22, predicting it could cripple the Algarve's already ailing economy.

But the minority government, adamant that tolls should be charged on selected motorways in the north, were this week told by the opposition PSD to be "fair" or face having its proposals to charge tolls rejected by parliament.

"The cost of travelling on motorways should be borne by their users and not the taxpayer", said PSD spokesman Miguel Relvas, revealing his party had scheduled a meeting with the government to discuss support for tolls on all motorways.

In a veiled reference to the Algarve's claims that tolls will cause a serious dent in the tourist industry, Miguel Relvas argued: "Tolls should not be charged on a regional level, but on a national one. They should be applied to all people and not just some, whether they are Portuguese or foreigners".

The government though, has been reluctant to push through tolls elsewhere in the country, but failure to oblige with the PSD's wishes, which have since been echoed by the smaller CDS-PP party, could cost state coffers hundreds of millions in lost revenue.

The PSD has given the government until July 9 to come up with an alternative proposal.

Socialist back-benchers had already drawn up a proposal last month calling for tolls on all the nation's motorways, though MP Vítor Baptista, who presented it, cited the nation's dire financial situation as justification for the charging of tolls as opposed to equality.

In the meantime, the PSD's counter-proposal has set out a calendar for the introduction of tolls, calling for them to be introduced nationwide over the course of the next six months. Should negotiations on tolls reach a dead end, the PSD has threatened to vote in favour of a joint law decree presented by the Communist Party and the Left Bloc calling for the immediate suspension of tolls on all SCUT motorways. The proposal will be tabled for voting in parliament on July 9, which is also the deadline the PSD has given the government to incorporate its suggestions into proposed legislation regulating toll roads and their charging.

Further evidence of tolls becoming more likely in the Algarve came last week when the State Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Paulo Campos, after being told that an injunction had been filed by seven town halls in the north against the charging of tolls, said he would consider charging tolls on all free motorways if he were forced to do so.

Mayors in the north of the country have been claiming they are being discriminated against while motorists in the south enjoy the benefit of free motorways at the taxpayers' expense.

Meanwhile, as revealed in a previous edition of **The Portugal News,** the Algarve has already pledged not to accept the introduction of tolls here without a fight. Tolls will also imply all cars being fitted with microchips to allow roadside sensors to electronically debit a motorist's account and dispense with erecting costly toll booths on the A22.

The chairman of Algarve Municipalities, Macário Correia said last week there "can be no honest reason to introduce tolls on the Via do Infante motorway".

The president of the Algarve Tourism Board (ERTA) had earlier told **The Portugal News** he would lead the fight against tolled motorways in the Algarve.

"I am against tolls on the A22", he said, "The EN125 is not an alternative, and until it is, we cannot possibly have tolls on the A22.

"The cost will be enormous to the region, as traffic will be diverted onto the EN125 creating terrible congestion issues. What we cannot do is ask a tourist who has just spent two hours on a flight from northern Europe to spend another two hours in a bus to travel 40 kilometres."

But he did leave the door open to accepting tolls at a later date.

"The EN125 is being subjected to major renovation work, and once complete, we will have another look at the viability of the road as an alternative."

However, shortly before going to press, there was a suggestion that the prime minister had offered a compromise deal.

According to reports, José Sócrates is ready to offer an exemption to businesses registered in regions where tolls would be charged, with the same being applied to residents, who would then escape tolls.

Visitors from abroad or other regions of the country are expected to face paying for using these motorways.

Whether the opposition deems this proposal is fair and equal is expected to spark some debate.

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Politicians look for high tension solution

Carrie-Marie Bratley

Algarve-elected Socialist Party (PS) MPs have this week stressed the importance of the lines of communication remaining open to find a solution for the proposed Portimão-Tunes high tension line, so as to protect the best interests of both the population and the environment. Failure to do so will almost certainly result in a repeat of protests and hunger strikes that occurred back in 2007 against high tension lines.

The inhabitants of Vale de Fuzeiros in Silves demonstrate in Largo Camões, Lisbon, in December 2007 against high tension electricity lines between Portimão and Tunes which were rusnning across the zone. (Photo: Lusa / Jose Sena Goulão)

The MPs' position was affirmed during a parliamentary debate held this week, to discuss a new proposal for the 'very high tension' line planned to cross through the areas of Funcho and Arade, in Silves.

At the request of the Portuguese Environmental Agency (APA) the debate was opened to the public.

At the core of the debate was a document depicting the proposed stretch, though this does not have the "general consensus" of the local population.

A previous alternative proposal presented in an Environmental Impact Study (EIA) in 2009 did, however, have the local population's approval, as well as the approval of Silves Town Hall and the National Electricity Network (REN).

"We believed that a compromise for the implementation of the line had been reached amongst all parties involved, but faced with a new proposal we think new negotiations are necessary", said MP Jamila Madeira.

In the Algarve-elected MP's opinion, "dialogue must allow for a balanced solution to be found, that will protect economic and environmental values as well as the welfare of the population".

The implementation of a 'very high tension' line in the Algarve was announced in 2007 and is intended to reinforce the supply of electricity to the Western Algarve.

It suffered a series of protests and setbacks as locals contested the line crossing through their villages.

Nevertheless, the MPs urge that the line's "relevance to the quality of energy supply should not represent a motive for conflict with population".

In recent years the Algarve has been plagued with controversy regarding REN's Portimão-Tunes High Tension power line.

Protests and petitions in several locations across the region erupted as a consequence, some successfully deterring the cables from crossing over inhabited areas, and many rural hamlets.

In June 2007 it emerged that two initial alternatives had been suggested for the route, one North of the Arade dam, one south of the Arade dam, though it was the latter possibility, a route which passes through some of the region's most naturally rich and beautiful areas, such as Alacalar in Portimão and Vale Fuzeiros in Silves, that was the preferred option.

REN's main defence for opting for the southern route was to "Safeguard the protected areas of the Arade dam, provide greater distance from archaeological sites, avoid passing over urban areas or areas of urban potential defined by Municipal Planning Directives (PDM's), isolated habitations, or areas of the Arade, Odelouca or Monchique mountain range that integrate the REDE 2000 nature protection plan".

Regarding health concerns REN told **The Portugal News** in June 2007 that, "All required calculations have been made and the project at hand presents figures relatively inferior to the maximums stipulated by law".

Later that month a resident from the area of Monte do Judeu, Alvor, contacted **The Portugal News** after being surprised to find a mammoth metal skeleton a stone's throw from his garden boundary upon returning from a day out with his wife.

Describing their reaction and feelings towards the structure as "terrible" and "distraught", Mr. and Mrs. Cave, who had been living in the region for five years, only found out about the plans weeks before construction began and only after they had been given the OK by the respective authorities, in similarity to other residents across the region.

In December 2007 Silves Mayor Isabel Soares threatened to resort to legal action in an attempt to stop the high tension line being constructed.

Since the summer of that year residents of Vale Fuzeiros, Silves, campaigned desperately to stop the line going up.

Their efforts, directed at the government and other top ranking officials, which included hunger strikes and petitions were eventually successful, resulting in new route proposals.

In the summer of 2006 the same issue occurred in the small village of Alferce, Monchique, where locals became outraged after discovering plans to erect a high-tension electricity line across their hamlet.

A petition was immediately organised by local residents, amongst who were many foreigners. An impressive 512,240 signatures were gathered. It later transpired that the lines were eventually sidetracked to a route that did not encroach on inhabited areas.

In March 2009 news emerged that one of the eastern Algarve's most idyllic rural retreats, a mountainous range eight kilometres north of Stª Catarina de Fonte do Bispo (Tavira), was also under threat of being invaded by two large-scale energy projects. The quaint villages of Malhada do Judeu, Água de Tábuas and Aporfiosa were all threatened by two reportedly 'massive' projects, which proposed the installation of High Tension (HT) cables and pylons as well as a wind turbine farm.

Residents immediately united in uproar, pledging to go to all lengths possible to ensure the projects did not follow the proposed route.

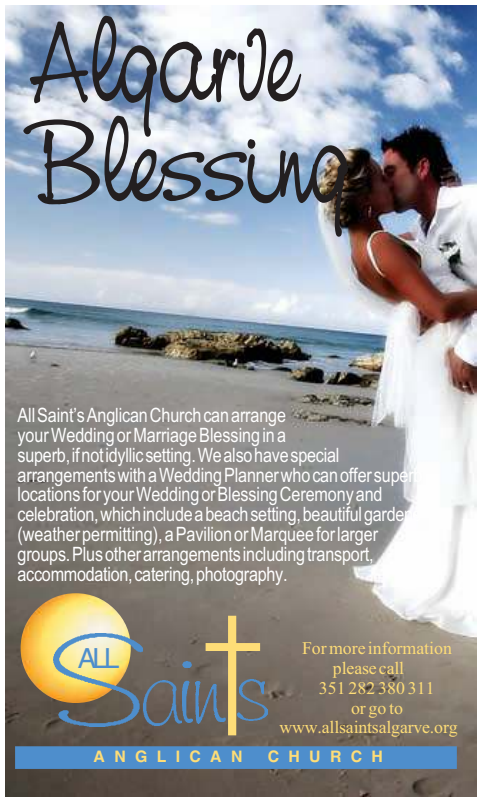
However, in April this year it was confirmed that the wind turbine project at Água de Tábuas has been halted "for good", which according to a newsletter from the non-governmental environmental protection association PROBAAL was mainly due to "a group of dedicated and determined residents, a good lawyer and support from the many agencies and individuals who agreed that it should not be built in this location".

"The project has been thrown out following the consultation period, on many counts - so the work, the worry and the money was worth it, to achieve this happy outcome", it concluded.

In March 2008 National Energy Network Company REN announced that, by this year, "most of the eastern Algarve's interior" would be covered with high tension power lines, from Tunes all the way to Spain.

Plans announced two years ago included a substation to be built in Tavira, working as a midway point from the Andalusia line and the Algarve's.

At the time REN argued that the Algarve was a region registering "a large increase in electric consumption", with rates higher than the national average, and therefore the connection with Spain was justifiable for economic reasons as well as for improving available resources.



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Thousands mourn death of Nobel novelist José Saramago

An entire country was this week mourning the death of Portuguese novelist and the nation's only writer to win the Nobel Prize, José Saramago, who died last Friday in Lanzarote. He was 87.

A woman holds a picture of José Saramago during the funeral ceremony held this morning at Lisbon City Hall where the body of José Saramago had been in a cremating chamber since June 20th. (Photo: Lusa / Manuel de Almeida)

José de Sousa Saramago was born in the small village of Azinhaga, near Golegã, in the Ribatejo region (Central Portugal), on November 16 1922 - although on his birth certificate he was registered as being born on November 18.

Saramago was his family's nickname; even his parents were at first unaware that the registrar had decided to add the nickname to his family names, Meirinho Sousa.

His family moved to Lisbon at the age of 3, where he completed high school. His family could not afford a college education.

Saramago worked as a mechanic, illustrator, healthcare and social security clerical worker, and also took jobs as an editor, translator and, in the 1960s, literary critic for 'Seara Nova' magazine, influential among Portuguese intellectuals during the Salazar regime.

He was also a journalist, becoming editor-in-chief of one of the nation's oldest and most influential daily papers, 'Diário de Notícias', in 1975.

His first novel was 'Terra do Pecado' ['Land of Sin'], published in 1947. It would be two decades until one of his works saw print again – 1966's 'Os Poemas Possíveis' ['The Possible Poems'].

Only from the 1970s onwards – particularly after the 1974 revolution that put an end to the 'Estado Novo' regimes - did Saramago's works begin being regularly published.

Most of his major works, however, came after the 1980s. Novels such as 'Baltasar and Blimunda' (1982), 'The Year of the Death of Ricardo Reis' (1986), 'The Stone Raft' (1986) or 'The Gospel According to Jesus Christ' (1991) established him as one of the most important contemporary writers in Portuguese literature.

Often described as 'allegorical' in style, Saramago's writings frequently dealt with religious themes.

'Gospel' was perhaps his most controversial work. Some Portuguese Catholics, including prominent politicians, protested his iconoclastic portrait of Jesus; Saramago, an atheist, maintained a contentious relationship with the Church throughout his career.

His last published novel – 2009's 'Cain' once again tackled a religious subject. Internationally, Saramago is probably best know for 'Blindness' – a 1995 novel adapted into an English-language feature film with broad worldwide distribution, directed by Brazilian, Fernando Meirelles in 2008.

An active member of the Portuguese Communist Party (he ran for the European Parliament in a Communist ticket in the 2009 elections) since before the 1974 revolution, Saramago was outspoken in his leftist views, and a frequent critic of Portuguese society and politics.

Despite his contrary views, Saramago became a national symbol of pride by winning the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1998 – only the second Portuguese national to be awarded a Nobel prize, and the first writer to do so.

By then, Saramago already lived on Lanzarote, in Spain's Canary Islands. In the last years of his life, the writer spent most of his time there, though he frequently visited Portugal.

He was married to Pilar del Río, who translated most of his books into Spanish. One of Saramago's controversial views was the suggestion that Iberia should be a single political entity.

His death has caused an outpouring of comments from all corners of Portuguese society and from many politicians and artists in other Portuguese-speaking countries.

In a final gesture of mourning for Nobel literature laureate José Saramago, Portugal's football team wore black arms bands on Monday when they faced North Korea in their second World Cup match.

Saramago was cremated in Lisbon on Sunday after two days of national mourning that drew more than 20,000 people to the City Hall to view his body and pay homage to the Marxist author and militant supporter of many causes.

Saramago's widow, Pilar del Rio, told Lusa his ashes would 'remain in Portugal' and that she would move from their home in the Canary Islands, where he died, to Lisbon to direct the Saramago Foundation.

During the funeral ceremony, Culture Minister Gabriela Canavilhas praised Saramago as a novelist who 'used his writings to reflect on the great causes of humanity'.

He wrote to show 'respect for the earth and humanity' and to support international causes, 'denouncing the war in Iraq and the occupation of Palestine', among others, the minister said.

The author contributed to the promotion of the Portuguese language and literature and to 'the union of the Lusophone world', Canavilhas added.

Neighbouring Spain, where Saramago earned great affection and lived for the last years of his life, was also represented at the ceremony.

The deputy prime minister of Spain, Maria Teresa Fernández de la Vega, said the Nobel laureate's death 'darkened [one's] sight and heart'.

'We all feel like orphans of this beloved figure and of his comforting words, orphans of one who was so often our voice, the most human and most dignified of voices', Fernandez said.

TPN/Lusa

Lisbon makes Monocle's top-25 best cities

Lisbon has, for the third consecutive year, made Monocle Magazine's 'Top 25 cities with best quality of life' list, reaffirming its burgeoning reputation as being one of Europe's most promising capitals.

Despite achieving a place on the list Lisbon only ranked 25th, the same spot as it took last year, after having dropped one position from 24th in 2008.

Nevertheless, it is a prestigious feat to achieve; an accolade based on facts such as low crimes rates, a strategic geographical position on the European continent, its stunning riverside area, and, for the first time, its liberal laws that allow gay marriage.

According to the monthly English-language magazine, which has a print run of 150,000 copies, distributed in 50 countries, Lisbon is an "increasingly better city in which to live".

This is supported by a recent survey from Mercer, a leading global provider of consulting, outsourcing and investment services, whose latest 'Quality of Living' study indicates the same findings.

While Vienna remains at the top of Mercer's study and Baghdad at the bottom, European cities continue to dominate the top of the ranking, with Lisbon ranking 45th.

In comparison to New York City, which is used as the main comparative average with 100 points, the Portuguese capital rates slightly above-average, with 100.3 points.

Mercer evaluates local living conditions in all 420 cities that it surveys worldwide. Living conditions are analysed according to 39 factors, grouped in 10 categories: political and social environment, economic environment, socio-cultural environment, health and sanitation, schools and education, public services and transportation, recreation, consumer goods, housing and natural environment.

In March this year Lisbon was elected 'European Destination 2010' by the European Consumers' Choice, a non-profitable organisation that puts ten European cities to the test and allows consumers to decide which they think performs best in an online voting system.

European Comission President Duro Barroso waves to the crowd after a little tram walk at the end of 25th aniversary of Portugal's adherence to European Union ceremonies at Jeronimos Monastery, in Lisbon, on June 12th. (Photo: Lusa / João Relvas)

Holiday hunters duped by Algarve package deals

Faro's GNR police confirmed that over the past weekend they received three complaints from people who purchased rented accommodation in the Algarve via the internet, but arrived in the region to find the address didn't even exist.

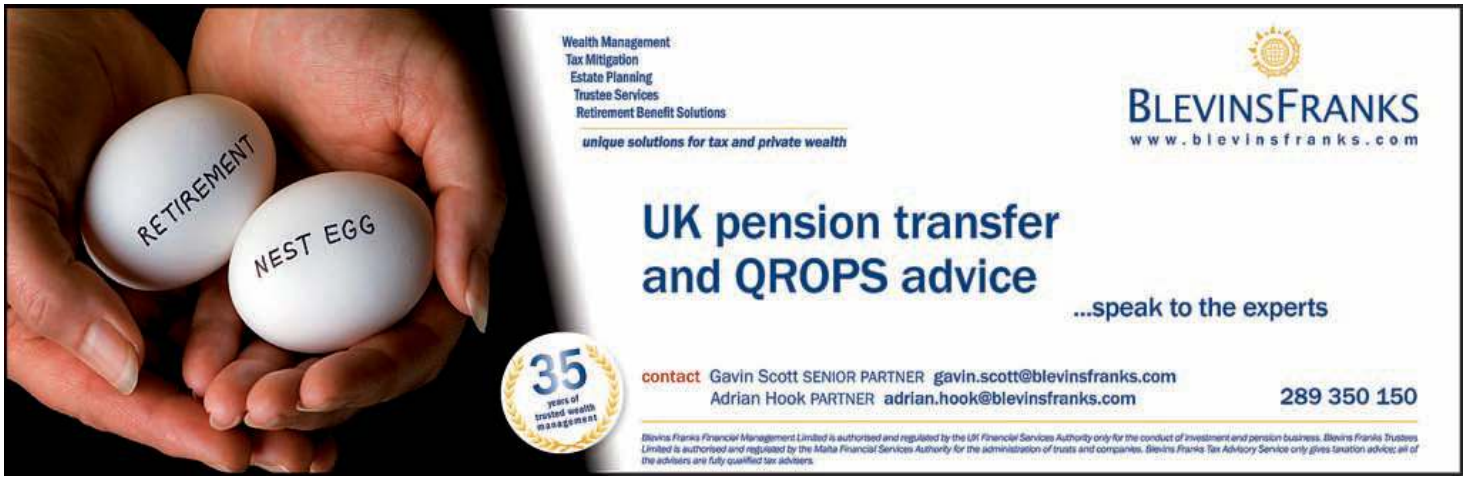
Speaking to Lusa News Agency, a Faro GNR source explained that last weekend three individuals lodged complaints after having paid for their accommodation in full, via the internet, only to discover on arrival that it was a scam. In all the cases the address of the apartments where they were supposed to be staying didn't exist.

The same sort of scam was registered in the Algarve over this year's Easter period, as well as over the New Year.

In total, last year the GNR registered 30 complaints relating to phantom accommodation in the Algarve, with the supposed occupants having paid for their stay in full.

The majority of the crimes occurred during summer though.

Faro GNR police warn people to "be careful when purchasing holiday deals at alluring prices over the internet".



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Het beursklimaat was de afgelopen jaren erg turbulent. Waar vele beurzen en aandelen de helft van hun waarde verloren, bleef Alex Vermogensbeheer, door op tijd in- en uit te stappen, goed overeind. Dit resulteert in rendementen waar we trots op zijn.

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Zo weet u zeker dat Alex Vermogensbeheer haar uiterste best voor u doet. Of dat werkt?

Algarve aims to be amongst top destinations for the disabled

Carrie-Marie Bratley

Government and tourism officials have confirmed their intention to re-invent the Algarve as a leading destination for tourists with disabilities. The pledge was made during a seminar held in Faro last month, in which the renowned destination of Arona, Tenerife (Spain) was held as an example to be achieved by Portugal.

Key participants in the seminar included Portugal's State Secretary for Tourism, Bernardo Trindade, Ana Godinho, vice-president of TP – Tourism of Portugal, Dr. António Almeida Pires, vice-president of the Regional Algarve Tourist Board (ERTA), and Faro Mayor, Macário Correia. Guest speakers featured Paula Reis, a consultant for Accessible Portugal – a Portuguese travel agency dedicated to organising holidays for individuals with Restricted Mobility (RM) – and José Gil Duarte, a partner in project development and market research company RDPE.

In an interview with **The Portugal News,** held prior to the seminar, Dr. Pires confirmed the tourism board's intention to improve facilities in the Algarve for disabled tourists. He explained that the aim was to make the region more accessible to visitors with restricted mobility and in turn welcome a sector that had previously been relatively excluded.

"We are talking about numbers that from a tourism point of view are extraordinarily important and strategic to the Algarve" he had said, adding, "We must not be hypocritical; accessible tourism [could be] a whole community and an economic activity that has yet to reach its full potential".

To highlight the matter the ERTA, in collaboration with the Portuguese Tourism Board, organized a first International Conference on Accessible Tourism, which was held last month.

Speaking at the conference, Dr. Pires stressed "We will raise awareness about this project even if it means going door-to-door".

State Secretary Bernardo Trindade made the most of a brief appearance to stress the importance of developing an all-inclusive tourism.

The project includes adapting many of the region's infrastructures to accommodate disabilities as well as training professionals in the customer relations industry as to the specific needs of people with disabilities or reduced mobility.

Accessible Portugal's Paula Reis made a point of clarifying that a 'disability' does not solely refer to being wheelchair-bound, but could indicate a number of conditions that result in restricted mobility, temporary or permanent, such as pregnancy, broken bones, and obesity.

Faro Mayor Macário Correia stressed that municipal services also required "sensitive people to deal with such matters".

No budget has been announced for the project.

A National Tourism Strategy Plan drawn up in 2006 nominated Portugal as one of Europe's fastest-growing countries, with tourism being the main driving force in its economic growth. Statistics from the World Tourism Organisation (OMT) predict Portugal will be, by 2020, amongst the world's top-20 leading countries in terms of tourists and tourism-generated revenue. Therefore it is one of the government's and tourism officials' objectives to ensure disabled tourists and visitors with RM are a part of that drive.

In 1980 the OMT declared tourism a "fundamental right" and a "key vehicle to human development", and suggested society should create "better practical conditions for effective access without discrimination".

Eleven years later the same organisation identified that in all nations there were impediments that obstructed people with special needs from enjoying the possibilities of tourism. In May 2006 the EC declared there was a need for 'infrastructures conducive to accessible culture and leisure', and that these were "indispensible" to improve the quality of life for all citizens.

The English Tourism Council described 'accessible tourism' as "a set of services and infrastructures capable of guaranteeing that people with special needs can enjoy their holidays and leisure time without barriers or particular problems".

The ERTA is now aiming to implement 'accessible tourism' in the region, to an extent that it eventually becomes embedded in the Algarve's blueprint.

According to recent estimates there are currently between 50 and 65 million people in the EU living with some form of disability; 37 percent of those have restricted mobility. The vast majority of these individuals travel accompanied by relatives or at least one friend, though many chose not to travel too far afield – or not to travel at all – due to lack of options or being overwhelmed at the prospect of travelling with a disability. In Portugal, one third of people suffering from a disability no longer take holidays.

The UK, which is one of Portugal's largest tourist markets, is amongst countries within the EU with the highest incidence of citizens with disabilities.

Altogether, according to RDPE's José Duarte, 'accessible tourism' could represent an additional €83 million in revenue for the EU.

State Secretary for Tourism Bernardo Trindade leaving the awareness-raising seminar about Accessible Tourism, which was held in Faro's Hotel School. (Photo: The Portugal News)

He said international tour operators looking for a specific product for disabled travellers could not find options in Portugal, as it is a country that, in terms of accessible tourism, "has difficulty in expanding and innovating".

"Accessibility is not in the Algarve's DNA", he stressed, adding "We are far from understanding the implications of such a change. Accessibility is not a material question, it is much more than that; we are talking about values".

Faro Airport estimated that, over the past 18 months it has helped some 29,000 passengers with mobility problems.

Paula Reis, of Accessible Portugal, praised the efforts that have been made in Arona, which is a hugely popular holiday destination for people with RM and known as one of "the most accessible places" in the world.

Ninety percent of Arona's streets have been specifically designed to be obstacle free; the town boasts 11 purposely adapted taxis, 29 specially-designed beaches and many hotels, shopping centres, play-parks, nature spots and sports centres that are adapted to accommodate those with disabilities.

Portugal, which has 830 kilometres of coastline, as well as beaches in Madeira and the Azores, has around 480 official beaches; 240 of these have been awarded a 'Blue Flag' for excellence; 154 are classified as 'Accessible Beaches'.

To be classified as a completely accessible beach, the location must incorporate six key features: pedestrian access, orderly parking, access to bathing areas, walkways on the sand, adapted toilets and access to first aid posts.

Last year the 'Most Accessible Beach of the Year' award was given to the Algarve's Manta Rota beach, (Vila Real Santo António), by Portugal's Ministry for Work and Social Welfare.

This year the Algarve boasts 41 'accessible' beaches, most of which have amphibian wheelchairs and crutches at visitors' disposal.

Faro Town Hall banks coffee breaks

Municipal workers in Faro have this week been told they could face having to sign for unpaid leave, salary cuts and even sackings should they not refrain from taking extended coffee breaks during working hours.

Macário Correia made headlines this week when he revealed that he has set out to change "old and bad habits" by increasing productivity amongst workers at Faro Town Hall.

"Working hours are for working", said the Faro Mayor this week, echoing what many citizens have been saying for years: "We have to respect those who spend hours waiting in queues while somebody is sitting in a café when they should be working", he was quoted as telling Lusa News Agency.

The Union of Local Civil Servants (STAL) have meanwhile responded to this move by saying they will speak to municipal workers in order to establish whether or not the mayor's actions are justified.

Macário Correia meanwhile said the majority of the town hall's workers comply with their duties, but there "are a few dozen who don't".

The mayor has already ordered the closure of the Faro Town Hall coffee bar during all hours except from 7am to 10am and again from noon until 2:30 pm.

Recently elected as Faro Mayor, Mr Correia's previous post was as Tavira mayor, where he implemented a clock-in device that requires the digital fingerprint of municipal workers.

In the meantime, Mr Correia explains: "Breaks are allowed in which to have a bite to eat, drink or visit the bathroom, so long as they are disciplined".

According to a council worker, who worked alongside Macário Correia at the Tavira Town Hall, the now Faro mayor has a history of taking unproductive workers to task.

Speaking to *Jornal de Notícias*, the unnamed worker recalled one incident where the mayor came across council staff drinking alcoholic beverages at a coffee bar during office hours.

"He greeted them, and without saying another word, asked for their bill at the counter, which he paid for, keeping the receipt. Upon their return to the town hall, they were handed an official warning" due to professional misconduct.

Faro Mayor Macário Correia joining in the 'Let's clean Faro' campaign last December. (Photo: Lusa/ Luis Forra)

Portugal says Timor not yet ready for UN handover

Portugal has this week defended the continuation of the UN mission in East Timor until the newly independent country assures "robust and mature" institutions, according to the head of parliament's Foreign Relations Commission.

"The issue of speed (in ending the UN commitment) is not relevant", José Ribeiro e Castro told Lusa News Agency on Monday after talks with the UN secretary-general's special envoy to Dili, Ameerah Haq.

"Our position is that the UN mission in East Timor should remain in place for the time necessary to consolidate Timorese institutions, namely in the sensitive areas of security and policing", the lawmaker said.

The mission, which includes contingents of Portuguese police, is scheduled to end in late 2012.

The UN's Ameerah Haq praised Portugal's contribution to the mission, noting that the next 2-1/2 years would be "extremely important for Timor's authorities".

The Bangladeshi diplomat said she was confident Dili would have gained the "necessary capacities" by the scheduled end of the mission.

Haq meanwhile also held talks with President Cavaco Silva at Belém Palace on Tuesday.

TPN/Lusa

Police reassure car crime is down

Carrie-Marie Bratley

Sightings of vehicles with smashed windows or distinctive pools of glass in public car parks in key areas of Lagoa have sparked concern that vehicle looting in that area may be rising; however, regional police have assured the contrary and announced that car theft has in fact dropped significantly.

Earlier this month a recent-model Seat Ibiza was sighted in a public car park, adjacent to Ferragudo's popular Praia Grande beach, with a smashed passenger window. Beneath the passenger door lay of pool of shattered glass from where the window had been smashed. It was 19h30 on a Sunday afternoon in early June and still broad daylight.

A little further down the road was another identical pool of glass.

A local beach-bar employee told **The Portugal News** that in fact he worried about leaving his car in the car park.

The same pools of glass were also sighted in the car park of the E.LeClerc supermarket, in Parchal, sparking fears that car lootings in the town are on the rise.

This was followed by a report of an Irish family's rented vehicle being broken into and their belongings stolen, also in broad daylight, early evening, in the public car park at Portimão's Retail Park.

One family member, who was in the car at the time, was threatened with a weapon as the crime took place.

The family told **The Portugal News** they did not wish to comment on the incident.

A recently updated posting on the website of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, regarding travelling and living in Portugal, said: "Crime remains comparatively low in Portugal but pick-pocketing; handbag snatching and theft from cars are increasingly common in major tourist areas. Take care of your belongings at all times".

It advised "Passports, credit cards, travel tickets and money should not be carried together in handbags or pockets. Leave spare cash and valuables in a safe place. Do not leave any valuables in an unattended car, even for a short period. Remember that foreign-registered and hire cars are often targeted by thieves".

However, contradicting worries, last week a GNR spokesperson told **The Portugal News** that car lootings have dropped during the first quarter of this year, by a significant 44 percent, in comparison to the first three months of 2009.

"Stealing possessions from within vehicles is a crime that greatly concerns the GNR" it was stated in an email from a GNR spokesperson to **The Portugal News**.

"To prevent it from happening a designated policing initiative has been implemented, with specific patrolling to carry out traffic checks on roads connecting to beaches, and under-cover patrolling in car parks to detect the perpetrators of such crimes".

As an example of the effectiveness of their patrolling, the GNR source revealed that on April 30th a Portuguese citizen was caught red handed while trying to break into a vehicle by an under-cover police officer patrolling the Marinha beach area of Lagoa.

"The GNR is keeping a close watch on policing carried out in car parks, whether near beaches or in large commercial areas, reinforcing policing to be closer and more visible [to the general public], to protect citizens and their belongings, and also to try and dissuade the perpetrators from committing such crimes", the statement concluded.

Photo above left: As summer approaches, motorists are advised not to leave any valuables in their vehicles at beachfront car parks following an apparent increase in thefts. (Photo: **The Portugal News**)

Socialist MP Defensor Moura "considering" 2011 presidential run

Socialist MP Defensor Oliveira Moura has told Lusa News Agency he is "considering" a 2011 presidential run, which would pit him against incumbent Cavaco Silva and fellow-Socialist Manuel Alegre.

Defensor Moura in January 2009. (Photo. Lusa / João Abreu Miranda)

"I am considering running for President of the Republic. I have received a lot of support from inside and outside the [ruling, centre-left] Socialist Party's parliamentary group", Defensor Moura, a former mayor of Viana do Castelo (Northern Portugal), said. "I will announce a decision in the coming days."

Moura wouldn't tell Lusa whether he had discussed his potential candidacy with Prime Minister and Socialist leader José Sócrates: "I held conversations with many people, but I don't want to name anyone."

If Moura does throw his hat in the presidential ring, he will muddle the field of opponents to centre-right Cavaco Silva, who is expected to seek a second term in the 2011 election.

Manuel Alegre, who ran as an independent in 2006, is also a member of the Socialist Party, but has been a vocal critic of Sócrates, and many within the party do not want to support him.

Fernando Nobre, founder of NGO International Medical Assistance (AMI), has also declared he is running, and is equally expected to draw support from leftist voters. *TPN/Lusa*

PM blasts "humiliating", "ridiculous" parliament inquiry. Opposition MP says "Sócrates lied"

The Portuguese Prime Minister has lashed out at opposition MPs for their "ridiculous" role in the "humiliating" parliamentary inquiry commission that looked into an alleged government attempt to meddle in the purchase of Portugal's private broadcaster TVI.

The inquiry was meant to determine whether Prime Minister Sócrates and other ruling Socialist Party (PS) officials were aware that PT (a telecoms company in which the Portuguese government holds a 'golden share') wanted to purchase TVI, a television network some of whose newscasts were widely considered as extremely critical of Mr. Sócrates.

The inquiry's final 250 page report concludes that Prime Minister Sócrates and his government were indeed aware of the proposed deal (which eventually did not go through), therefore contradicting the prime minister's statements before the National Assembly in 2009.

"They [opposition MPs in the inquiry commission] wanted to humiliate me", José Sócrates told reporters last Friday, further describing the final report as "ridiculous" and "regrettable".

The opposition MPs, Mr. Sócrates said, reminded him of "people who yearn for [Stalin's] Moscow Trials, and want to use parliament to judge others".

"Opposition parties (…) came to the end [of the inquiry] presenting no evidence, their duty is to apologise to the nation, to parliament and to me", the prime minister added.

A different view was advanced by PSD (main opposition party, centre-right) MP and commission member José Pacheco Pereira, who complained the final draft of the report was "innocuous", and "filled with half-truths", sparing the prime minister's reputation: "The prime minister lied before parliament", he added.

The final report – which has no legal consequences - was approved in parliament by all opposition parties, with a dissenting vote from Socialists MPs. *TPN/Lusa*

Beja population could boom thanks to regional development

A recent photo of the entrance to the as yet unused international aiport at Beja. (Photo: The Portugal News)

A municipal study carried out in Beja indicates that the city could see its local population boosted by some 22,000 inhabitants over the next decade thanks to the potential created by regional development such as the new airport, and Alentejo tourism.

By 2021 tens of thousands of new families could have relocated to Beja due to some 15,000 jobs that the airport, projects in Alqueva, and regional tourism have the scope to create, the study revealed.

According to previsions highlighted in the 'Beja: An unsure future but a land of investment and challenges' study, by 2021 the city could be home to 57,881 inhabitants, 22,119 more than the current population of 35,762 (Census 2001).

This represents a "significant reversal" of the region's present demographic situation, which could be a reality given the "right use" of the potential generated by Beja's new International Airport, the Alqueva development, and Alentejo's booming tourism industry.

For the more imminent future, the study has calculated that prominent developments in the region could create 638 jobs by 2011; it forecast that this would grow exponentially to 8,605 by 2016, and to 15,011 by 2021.

It is estimated that Beja airport, via directly and indirectly associated activities, could create 60 jobs by 2011; 1080 jobs by 2016, and 1,534 jobs by 2021.

The impact of developments in Alqueva, including the much-publicised Alqueva dam, on regional agriculture are expected to create 507 jobs by next year; 7,155 by 2016 and 12,751 in 2012, while tourism in that area should open up 71 new jobs in the next 12 months, creating a further 370 by 2016, and 726 by 2021.

From these figures, using demographic projection techniques, the authors of the study were able to calculate that in 2011 Beja could have a residential population of 37,923 inhabitants in 2011, growing to 49,103 in 2016, reaching 57,881 in 2021.

PM rules out resorting to emergency funds for servicing Portuguese debt

Portugal "has no plans" to resort to European Union emergency funds in order to service its public debt, Portuguese Prime Minister José Sócrates said.

"Portugal is able to solve its own problems", Prime Minister Sócrates said after a meeting of EU government leaders in Brussels, whose major topic was the financial crisis.

The Portuguese Prime Minister categorically denied his country would need any financial assistance to deal with the higher costs of financing, as markets grow weary of the budgetary pressures in Portugal, Spain and Greece.

Reports that Spain might ask for EU assistance were dismissed by Mr. Sócrates as baseless "rumours".

"They are nothing but senseless speculation, and indeed the Spanish government has denied them", José Sócrates said, adding that such "rumours" aim only to feed "speculative attacks" on the Eurozone nations.

In a related story, the prime minister dismissed the possibility of cutting public sector salaries, saying the Portuguese government's austerity programme was sufficient to achieve deficit pruning goals in the next two years.

"It will not be necessary", Mr. Sócrates replied to reporters in Brussels when questioned if salary cuts were on Lisbon's belt-tightening horizon.

His Socialist government has announced two austerity packages since the beginning of the year, including the postponement of some major public work projects, the introduction of long-term capital gains taxes, and hikes in income, corporate and VAT taxes.

The administration's declared objective is to reduce last year's 9.4% deficit to 7.3% in 2010 and 4.6% next year.

TPN/Lusa

US calls for triangular partnerships with Portugal for African investment

Washington's envoy to Angola has urged US companies to invest in the oil-rich nation, despite problems such as corruption, and said triangular partnerships with Portuguese counterparts could ease the process.

"Angola has many opportunities for US investments and a partnership between the United States and Portugal can open doors to business in the country", Ambassador Dan Mozena said.

The diplomat, speaking at the Access Africa Forum in Lisbon, underlined that Luanda wanted to diversify its oil and natural gas-based economy, pointing to many other areas of possible investment.

Along with Nigeria and South Africa, Angola was one of three "strategic partners" for Washington in Africa, Mozena said, warning, however, that US companies risked "missing the boat".

Doing business in the former Portuguese colony required "patience and commitment", he said, noting that beyond pervasive corruption it was "difficult to get a visa or a hotel room" in Luanda.

US investors needing a "good partner" could find no better ally than Portugal, "which knows the language and culture", he said.

The US embassy, Mozena added, was working with the government and civil society to improve the situation, including the investment scenario.

"The president (José Eduardo dos Santos) is leading a Zero Tolerance campaign against corruption and we are collaborating with him", he said.

The two-day forum was sponsored by the US embassy in Lisbon and several chambers of commerce.

TPN/Lusa

Over 350 million nights spent on campsites in 2008

In 2008, there were 26,000 campsites in the European Union with an estimated total of around 10 million bed places.

Since 2000, the number of nights spent on campsites in the EU27 has remained relatively stable and amounted to 354 million nights in 2008.

Nights spent on campsites represented 15% of all nights spent in collective tourist accommodation establishments. These figures come from a publication by Eurostat on camping holidays in the EU in 2008.

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SATA launch summer Faro-Madeira route

As of last Friday Azorean airline SATA will be operating a new route from Faro, to Ponta Delgada (Azores) and Funchal, Madeira, until September 13th.

Faro's latest addition to its ever-growing list of destinations was officially inaugurated last week on Friday, June 18th.

The Ponta Delgada-Funchal-Faro domestic flight will operate on Mondays and Fridays and was described by airport officials as being of "enormous importance" to Faro Airport and the Algarve, as well as to Madeira and the Azores.

It leaves Ponta Delgada for Funchal at 09h30, arriving in the Madeiran capital at 12h30, then departs Funchal en-route to the Algarve at 13h00, landing in Faro at 14h50.

The return flight leaves Faro at 15h30 and arrives in Funchal at 17h25, before making its final flight on to Ponta Delgada at 17h55, landing in the Azores at 18h50.

The recently-inaugurated route is a further reinforcement of Faro Airport's services and increasing portfolio of destinations, this time to two Portuguese islands.

It will be operated by a SATA Airlines Q400 Bombardier 80-seater aircraft.

Officials expect the route will appeal to both national and foreign residents, as well as visitors.

António Gomes de Menezes (centre) President of SATA's Administrative Board, who arrived on the inaugural flight to Faro, with Faro Airport Director Eng. António Correia Mendes to his left (second from left) and Dr. Nuno Aires, President of the ERTA Algarve Regional Tourism Board (second from right).

Families powerless as they fail to pay bills

Over the past few months consumer rights watchdog DECO has received dozens of help requests from families who are struggling to pay their monthly bills, such as water and electricity, and many only ask for help after their services have been suspended.

"Last year we started to notice [a pattern] and this year it is still continuing" said Natália Nunes, of DECO's debt department, which was especially set up for families who are over-indebted.

While not having exact figures to hand, she estimated that there were currently some "several dozen" cases of families living without basic resources, like electricity and water.

"The majority, when they ask for help, have already had their services (electricity, water, gas, etc) cut off for several days".

DECO provides help by acting as a mediator and, in some cases, manages to establish agreements with service providers, proposing options such as payment in phases, to ensure services are re-established.

Natália Nunes advises those in financially difficult situations to "contact the companies immediately", though warns that phased-payment is "not sufficient" to have the situation completely resolved.

Eugénio Fonseca, President of Portuguese church-run charity Cartias, said such situations are "common" all over the country. Caritas has, according to its president, also experienced a rise in people asking for help to pay their bills, but admits that even with phased payment people struggle to pay their dues as "the next month they still don't have money".

On top of settling bills, families also face "the additional worry of having to pay all the taxes [penalties] related to having the service cut off then having it reinstated", said Mr. Fonseca, explaining that when the charity approaches companies to intervene, they claim they are "not social businesses, but commercial businesses".

National electricity supplier EDP told Lusa News Agency that the number of cases in which electricity is being cut off "is no higher this year than it was in 2009".

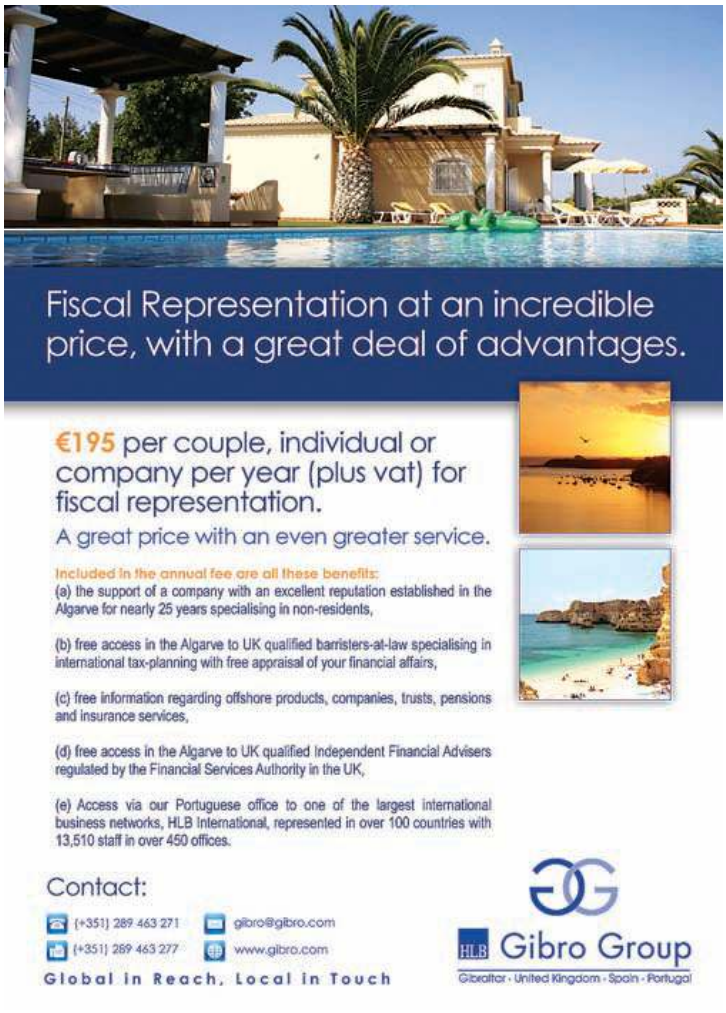
PT's stockmarket cap grows 2 billion since Telefónica's Vivo bid

Portugal Telecom stock has risen in value by more than 34% in a month, since Spain's Telefónica bid for its stake in Brazil's mobile phone operator Vivo, resulting in a €2 billion market cap increase for PT.

PT's shares were at a year's minimum of €6.48 when Telefónica offered €6.5 billion for PT's Vivo shares. PT and Telefónica each have 50% of Brasilcel, a holding company that owns 60% of Vivo. At the start of last Wednesday's session in the Lisbon stockmarket, PT shares were valued at €8.7.

PT's board considers the Telefónica offer inadequate, given Vivo's "strategic value", and has set a June 30 date for a shareholder assembly, in which a decision will be made on the bid.

TPN/Lusa



Surfcamp Algarve

Surf is up at one of Portugal's best kept surfer's secrets, family-run Surfcamp Algarve in the beachside town of Carrapateira. Recently refurbished, and situated within an area up for nomination as one of Portugal's Seven Natural Wonders, the surfing season is now in full swing at one of Europe's best surfing destinations.

With temperatures soaring, both on land and in sea, the early summer period is a perfect time to take advantage of the 'quieter' beaches, great surf and one-on-one surf tuition with the camp's highly skilled surf instructors, certified by the Portuguese Federation of Surf.

Guests will have access to two stunning beaches, Praia de Bordeira, with its Surfcamp Algarve owned beach bar and surf rental kiosk, and Praia do Amado, where the camp's surf school is situated. Both are a short 5 minute drive away with daily return transfers included in all surfing packages.

Surfcamp Algarve is located in Carrapateira on the south western coast of the Algarve. Situated within a protected national park with undulating sand dunes and plunging cliff side views, surfers can ride the waves surrounded by spectacular scenery.

Carrapateira has been recently nominated as one of seven finalists in the 'beaches and cliffs' category of Portugal's Seven Natural Wonders competition, selected from an initial list of 323 locations around the country.

Surfing courses start at 255 Euros for 7 days including accommodation and breakfast, Surfcamp Algarve offers a competitive package to surfers on a budget looking for good old fashioned surf, not fancy accommodation. Guests can choose to stay in the on-site wooden bungalows or tents, with the option of bringing their own. Private apartments outside of the camping area can also be rented, should surfers require more privacy.

Luis Franganito, manager at the Surfcamp Algarve's beach bar, Praia da Bordeira, says: "People come from all over Europe, some even as far as Asia, to get a taste of the surfing vibe here in Carrapateira. I see beginners and advanced come to the bar for a well earned drink after riding the waves. The wind is lively all year round but the waves are never terrifyingly huge, so it's perfect for beginners too. In summer the atmosphere at the camp is lively and fun."

For more information on courses and rates, visit www.surfcampalgarve.co.uk or contact Luis Franganito on +351 9257 48228 or email luis.franganito@gmail.com

Having a party has never been this easy

PARTY LAND opened its doors in Quarteira, last month with a selection of party items that has to be seen to be believed! From party - poppers to speaking balloons, there's even a balloon you can record your own message on! Whether it's a party for grown ups or kiddies, they have it all. If you can't find everything you need for an unforgettable party there, you won't find it anywhere! It doesn't matter if you decide to do it yourself or have the whole lot done by them, you will be pleasantly surprised at the cost of it all. They can even supply the cake for you or you can create your own with their exclusive, large selection of cake accessories from creation to decoration. They even have cup cake kits that will blow your mind. They stock a complete selection of decorations, from paper plates to plastic spoons to create a theme party for the kids. Turn your party room into a "Hello Kitty" haven or a "Ben 10" shuttle, complete with party bags full of favors, many other themes in store.

Visit the shop at: Avenida de Ceuta, Edificio D. Manuel I, Bloco A, Loja A, Quarteira, and be inspired for your next party or give Carol a call on 289 380 602 for more information. If you give them enough time they can get you anything a party needs if they don't already have it in stock!

Just Girls Fitness

Just Girls Center is a Health and Fitness Center exclusively for women, located in Quarteira. They offer a full fitness programme which includes many services like the 30mins Circuit, Group Classes, Personal Training and Vibrating Platform. Their highly qualified fitness instructors are fully motivated to help clients achieve their goals and the results people want, some desperately, to achieve. At Just Girls Center you will lose weight, reduce your body fat percentage, tone up your body, increase you cardiovascular capacity and improve your health and lifestyle in a motivating, fun, modern, professional environment which is exclusively for women.

Membership offers you the possibility of a choice between Circuit or Circuit + Group Classes. The Personal Training and Vibrating Platform are complimentary services. The 30mins Circuit is a complete workout where you alternate resistance machines (where you work all your muscle groups) and "free" exercises between the machines. Exercises between the machines are different every day because they use different equipment day per day. Some days they use Step, Platforms, Dumbbells, Pump Bars, Mats (for abs and local exercises), Mini-Trampolines and Fit balls. Every week and every day the training sessions are different so that your weekly workout can be as complete as possible working your body as many different ways to train all fitness and conditioning components. The training sessions are intense, you jump from a machine to exercise and to machine with no rest between puts your heart rate at a satisfactory level to burn as much calories as possible. You can train for 30mins – minimum – but you can also train for as long time as you want and can. They have a diverse variety of group classes where you can find at their timetable classes like Girls Pilates, Girls ABS, Girls GAP, Girls PUMP, Girls Cycling and Girls MIX. The Personal Training and Vibrating Platform are pre-booked sessions for those who want a more deep and personalized training. They evaluate the positive effects of the exercise and the good relationship between members and staff so also organize events. For more information about the services and where you can find them please visit www.justgirlscenter.pt .

If you are on holiday please come and visit to get to know the Just Girls Center concept. You do not need to become a member, as they have weekly passes for those who are on holiday and want to practice some exercise or just to stay fit. Please feel free to visit. First session is free.

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Cardinal Policarpo urges authorities to show caution on crucifixes in schools

Lisbon's Cardinal Patriarch José Policarpo has urged Portuguese authorities to respect community values and avoid the "exaggeration" shown in Italy by the banning of crucifixes in schools.

"The existence of crucifixes in schools is an issue that should be viewed within the framework of respect" for local communities, Dom Policarpo said on Sunday at the inauguration of a primary school in his home area of Caldas da Rainha.

The cardinal noted that throughout history neither had the Portuguese Catholic Church "demanded" the presence of crucifixes in schools nor had government "banned" their existence.

Underlining that "the religious dimension" was part of a predominantly Catholic Portugal's culture, he said the presence of crucifixes in class rooms was the result of "spontaneous" decisions by "local communities", a dynamic that should continue to be respected.

The cardinal urged authorities not be as overzealous as he suggested had been the case in Italy recently where court decisions led to a ban on crucifixes in schools.

In recent years, Lisbon's Socialist administration has liberalised divorce and abortion laws, and parliament recently approved a gay marriage bill.

TPN/Lusa

Cardinal Dom José Policarpo leaving a conference in the Grémio Literário in Lisbon on April 22nd (Photo: Lusa / Mário Cruz)

Luxembourg investigates "xenophobic e-mail" aimed at Portuguese immigrants

Luxembourg authorities are investigating a "xenophobic e-mail", allegedly originated from Luxembourger police and aimed at Portuguese and other immigrants in the country. Several Portuguese officials have questioned Luxembourg on the matter.

The e-mail calls on Luxembourg to "illegally travel to Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iraq, Nigeria, Turkey and PORTUGAL" (all-caps verbatim), and to "demand that their local authorities free medical assistance for you and all your family".

Luxembourger MP Camile Gira questioned the government about the e-mail, which may have been written by police officers.

Portuguese MP Paulo Pisco wrote a letter to Luxembourg's Lisbon ambassador, manifesting his "indignation" at the e-mail's content.

Likewise, Portuguese MEP Diogo Feio asked the European Commission to look into this "intolerable attack" on Portuguese immigrants.

Portuguese are the largest immigrant community in Luxembourg, representing around 15% of the small European nation's population. *TPN/Lusa*

Europeans are more interested in science than sport

According to a new Eurobarometer report published today, nearly 80% of Europeans say they are interested in scientific discoveries and technological developments, compared to 65% interested in sport.

Over 70% of Europeans think EU-funded research will become more important in the future. A further 57% think scientists should put more effort into communicating about their work and 66% believe governments should do more to interest young people in scientific issues.

Europeans overwhelmingly recognise the benefits and importance of science but many also express fears over risks from new technologies and the power that knowledge gives to scientists.

Reduced crime figures encourage security forces - minister

Violent and other serious crime decreased 16.5 percent in Portugal during the first quarter in comparison to the same period last year, the interior minister said last Wednesday.

Internal Administration Minister Rui Pereira also told a parliamentary commission that general crime had come down 5.7 percent in the same period.

"There are figures in the first quarter that should give courage and strength to continue working for security", Pereira told reporters after his appearance at São Bento Palace.

He said the country's police forces had been boosted by 1,131 officers between 2006 and 2009.

Timor President laments accidental death of GNR officer

East Timor President José Ramos Horta has expressed his "shock and deep sorrow" over the road-accident death of a Portuguese GNR officer serving with UN forces in East Timor.

In a letter this week to his Portuguese counterpart, Cavaco Silva, Ramos Horta said his sorrow was "even greater" because Sgt. Hermenegildo Marques' death was the first of a Republic National Guard (GNR) officer in his country.

GNR paramilitary police units have served under UN command in East Timor since a wave of violence in 2006.

Ramos Horta praised the GNR's record of "professional, competent and dedicated service" in East Timor, saying the force had gained "the recognition of all Timorese". *TPN/Lusa*

Homosexuals denied access to assisted reproduction treatments

Portuguese law still denies gay couples access to assisted reproduction treatments, Portugal's Committee for Medically Assisted Reproduction (PCMAR) has announced.

PCMAR issued an opinion on the matter last Thursday, in the wake of the legalisation for same sex marriages, written into Portuguese law this month.

Portugal's government legalised gay marriage, but specifically prohibited gay couples from adopting children. The PCMAR opinion states that, according to current law, gay couples are also denied access to fertility and other reproductive treatments.

The PCMAR opinion is not binding. It will be presented for review in the national parliament. *TPN/Lusa*

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Macao chief ends Portugal visit in talks with President, PM

Macao Chief Executive Fernando Chui Sai On concluded a four-day visit to Portugal on Tuesday in meetings with President Aníbal Cavaco Silva and Prime Minister José Sócrates.

Officials from the Chinese territory described Chui's first visit abroad since assuming Macao's leadership last December as aimed at underlining the "important role played by the Portuguese community" in its development.

In 2003, Beijing made Macao its hub for trade and investment relations with the eight-nation Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP) that is headquartered in Lisbon.

On Monday, Chui held closed door talks with Economy Minister José Vieira da Silva.

A spokesman for Macao's leader said discussions had centred on Portuguese expertise in solar energy and the interest of Portuguese banks to make new investments in the territory which was governed from Lisbon for more than four centuries until 1999. *TPN/Lusa*

Photo left: Macao Chief Executive Fernando Chui Sai On, watches the dancing dragon during a reception in Lisbon on June 18th. (Photo: Lusa / António Cotrim)

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Four-nation 'Swordfish' naval exercises set for next week

Navy ships from Spain, France and Italy will join the Portuguese frigate Bartolomeu Dias next week in Lisbon for joint European Maritime Force (EUROMARFOR) exercises.

Dubbed 'Swordfish', the week-long naval exercise will involve five vessels from the four countries, the Portuguese Navy said last Wednesday.

Portugal holds the command of EUROMARFOR through to September 2011.

Founded in 1995, the force has carried out operations in the Eastern Mediterranean, within Lebanese waters, and in the Indian Ocean. *TPN/Lusa*

Record numbers of students receive EU funding to study or train abroad

More students than ever went abroad for studies and company placements with EU support through the Erasmus programme in 2008/09.

According to new figures released this week, almost 200,000 higher education students received grants to study or train abroad.

This represents an overall increase of 8.7% on the previous academic year and means that more than two million young Europeans have benefited from Erasmus funding since the programme's launch in 1987.

The biggest increase is in the number of students going on company placements – up more than 50% on the previous year. In addition, last year more than 36,000 staff from higher education institutions went abroad to teach or receive training in one of the 31 European countries participating in the Erasmus scheme.

Androulla Vassiliou, European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilinguistics and Youth, said: "More and more young Europeans are benefitting from a learning experience abroad during their studies. Ask those who have joined the 'Erasmus generation' and they will tell you how it has helped them in their academic and personal development, as well as in finding a job after their studies. With the upcoming 'Youth on the Move' initiative we want to expand this European success story and make it an opportunity for all young people."

EU granted protection to 78,800 asylum seekers in 2009

The 27 European Union Member States granted protection to 78,800 asylum seekers in 2009 compared with 75,100 in 2008.

The largest groups of beneficiaries of protection status in the EU27 were citizens of Somalia (13,400 persons or 17% of the total number of persons granted protection status), Iraq (13,100 or 17%) and Afghanistan (7,100 or 9%). This data on the results of asylum decisions in the EU27 was released by Eurostat on the occasion of the World Refugee Day on 20 June 2010.

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The Minister for Internal Affairs, Rui Pereira (centre) greeting firemen at a ceremony in Lisbon in May this year. (Photo: Lusa / Paulo Cunha)

Portuguese trust firemen most, politicians least

According to a study carried out in 19 countries, the Portuguese have more faith in their fire-fighters, teachers and postmen than in their politicians, lawyers, bankers, judges and CEOs.

The 'Custum Research' study, which was carried out by Gfk, one of the largest market-research companies in the world analysed the amount of trust different nations placed in various professions. It revealed that firemen and women inspired the most confidence, in 93 percent of cases, closely followed by teachers and postmen.

Doctors followed in fourth place, with 88 percent of people considering them to be amongst the most trustworthy professionals, and in Portugal's case, ahead of the military, environmental associations, and police.

Despite this, the police have climbed slightly in the Portuguese nation's opinion.

But, as happened in 2009 politicians emerged as being the least confidence-inspiring professionals; an opinion expressed by many countries, including Portugal.

In comparison to the results of last year's study, there was a general drop in percentage points regarding all of the 20 professions assessed by the Portuguese.

The professionals that the Portuguese lost most confidence in were judges and lawyers.

By order, the Portuguese are most suspicious of politicians, followed by lawyers and bankers, company executives, publicists and union leaders.

Globally, all 19 countries have become more trusting of their police forces, with the Germans and the Italians being the nations that have most confidence in their police.

New survey reveals more people struggling to make ends meet

One European in six reports a constant struggle to pay household bills, with almost half of Portuguese experiencing such difficulties. These are the key results from a new Eurobarometer survey on the social impact of the crisis, presented by the EU Commission this week.

The survey, carried out in May 2010, marks the halfway mark of the 2010 European Year against poverty and comes after EU leaders agreed on 17 June to lift 20 million Europeans out of poverty and social exclusion over the next decade.

Speaking to the media in Brussels, László Andor, EU Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion said: "The survey results confirm that poverty is a major issue in the EU and that the current economic and financial situation is aggravating the situation further. The crisis is taking its toll and a significant proportion of Europeans today are finding it difficult to make ends meet".

He added: "The EU's new strategy for the next decade: Europe 2020 and its target to lift at least 20 million Europeans out of poverty by 2020 sends a powerful message about all countries' genuine commitment to visible results for a more just and inclusive Europe."

Overall, EU citizens believe poverty has increased in the year prior to the survey, at all levels: 6 out of 10 believe poverty has increased in their local area, three-quarters feel poverty has increased in their country and 60% think poverty has increased across the EU as a whole.

The financial crisis and calls for austerity measures come through in people's perception of poverty.

Greece stands out with 85% of respondents who think poverty has increased in their country, 83% of the French, 82% of Bulgarians, 77% of Romanians and 75% of Italians also share this view about their own country.

While in some countries, people expect further difficulties for instance seven out of ten Romanians and Greeks expect their household financial situation to deteriorate, though perceptions did improve in others.

For example, only 23% of Latvians expect their households' financial situation to deteriorate (down from 65% in July 2009), 32% of Lithuanians (down from 58% in July 2009) and 20% of Hungarians (down from 48% in July 2009). Now, less respondents in Latvia, Poland, the UK, Belgium and Finland expect to remain unemployed if they were to lose their jobs.

One in six Europeans reported that their household has had no money to pay ordinary bills, buy food or other daily consumer items, on at least one occasion in the past year, while 46 percent of Portuguese reported difficulties in keeping up with household bills and credit commitments at the time of the survey's fieldwork.

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New Estoril Sol riles critics

Now completed and ready to move into, the new residential apartment building that has emerged from the rubble of the old Estoril Sol hotel after it was completely demolished continues to rile critics, who are divided over its aesthetic appearance.

The Estoril Sol Residence possesses 111 apartments, comprising of three glass towers connected by a bridge. It stands sixty metres tall and has fifteen floors. (Photo: Tiago Petinga/Lusa)

The new building's unusual architecture is a bone of contention among many long-term residents, who were used to seeing something more 'traditional' in its place.

João Torres, a resident of Monte Estoril, told Lusa News Agency that he had seen the project for the new structure even before construction had begun. He said he realised then that it would be "something horrible".

"How could someone have designed that", he complained, a view echoed by fellow local Maria Amélia Carvalho, who walks past the new building every day on her way to work.

"It may be true that the apartments within are beautiful and those who do go to live there will have a wonderful view out to sea, but those of us who see it from the outside, and who were used to the old hotel [being in its place] can't not be displeased with this building", she said.

"It is impossible to like this building", another local added.

Nuno Santos, a resident of Estoril, is of the opposite opinion, saying "At least when we see the building from Cascais Bay it is prettier than the previous one, which was an old white block. This one creates less contrast with the sea. In my opinion this building is nicer than the old one, which gave Cascais a terrible image".

Construction of the new Estoril Sol Residence, designed by architect Gonçalo Byrne, started in 2008 and was, from the beginning, swathed in controversy, ranging from its unusual architecture to environmental issues.

It is made up of 111 residential apartments, distributed over three glass-encased towers, connected by a bridge.

The building is 60 metres in height, over 15 floors, and is also destined to be used for offices and other services.

An underground car park provides parking for 511 vehicles, with a tunnel giving access to Parque Palmela and Paredão also being part of the project.

Teenagers patrol Cascais beaches

Over 600 teenagers from Cascais Council will be spending their summer holidays patrolling the beaches of Estoril, providing support for people with reduced mobility, gathering water samples for analysis and maintaining order.

A total of 640 youngsters, aged between 15 and 21, will be playing an active role in keeping Cascais beaches under control this summer, whilst also providing support for the disabled.

The Cascais Councillor for Youth, Miguel Pinto Luz, said the 'Maré Viva' programme had a record number of entries this year (1,200), symbolizing the growing "volunteering spirit and dedication of young people to social services." The Councillor said it might also be a reflection of the economic crisis, "Without devaluing the increasing volunteering spirit of young people, the crisis we are living in keeps people from travelling and, maybe for that reason as well, there are more teenagers looking for something to do during the holidays."

The 'Maré Viva 2010' programme seeks to keep youngsters occupied during their spare time by providing support to bathers and making them responsible for surveillance, safety and cleanliness on the beaches.

Taking place between June and September, the 'Maré Viva' is split into three groups, thirty days for each, ensuring the permanent presence of youngsters between 09h00 and 19h00 at the council's beaches throughout the summer.

In 2009 the programme was considered a great success, with participants registering 4,394 cases where they provided helpful support, such as alerting fire fighters, emergency medical teams and providing first aid treatment. Besides this, the youngsters also redirected lost people and improved the safety at beaches, with over 115 alerts to the Maritime Police, Municipal Police, PSP and GNR being registered.

Public transport thief caught

A nineteen year old, suspected of robbing over six people in Lisbon's subway and buses, was arrested by Lisbon's PSP this week.

The man had been under investigation by the PSP for around two months before his arrest on Wednesday, having been detained with a stolen mobile phone in his possession.

Lisbon's PSP proceeded to search the man's home, where "several stolen items were found, as well as a weapon (…) which he used to carry out some of the robberies" said the PSP.

The young man is suspected of having committed all his robberies either inside the Lisbon Metro or on Carris buses, particularly on the Marquês de Pombal and Pontinha stretch, according to the police. His victims were mostly young people, from whom he would take their mobile phones, gold jewellery and money, either by threatening them with a knife or by assaulting them.

The PSP said that with this arrest they also managed to uncover a criminal group that regularly carried out robberies on public transportation, being responsible for over eleven reported robberies so far, a number which could increase as their investigations continue.

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Lisbon's Park of Nations Marina gets Blue Flag

For the first time ever, the Marina at Lisbon's Park of Nations has received the coveted 'Blue Flag' distinction, a recognition of the Marina's environmental concerns throughout the €12 million project.

"We have always had a great concern for the environment, from the planning phase all the way to the construction phase. We carried out an environmental impact study on the project, although it was complex, it predicted interesting things such as the recycling of the water, the reintroduction of the river water and the collection of oily and dirty water" said José Vilar Filipe, administrator of the Park of Nations Marina.

The marina was able to conform to 24 individual standards in order to hoist the prestigious 'Blue Flag', now being one of the fourteen marinas in Portugal proud to possess the coveted award.

The total investment for the work at the Park of Nations Marina exceeds €12 million, which the administrator regards as "insignificant", as "the added value for complying with the criteria is very low compared to the global investment, because what matters is that it has been beneficial to carry out the project according to the criteria from the start" said José Vilar Filipe.

The Director of the Blue Flag Association, Manuel Maltez, said "A marina that does not have a Blue Flag might not check the quality of their water. They might do, but marinas with the Blue Flag most certainly do. It is a guarantee to the marina users that adequate safety systems are used, that there are on-board water pump systems, and that there is verification of environmental procedures."

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An archive picture of an Odelouca man assisting firemen in fighting a forest fire. (Photo: Lusa/Paulo Barata)

Special fire fighting teams

Algarve's Civil Protection chief has said difficulties in recruiting fire fighters from local stations, to be part of special forest fire combat teams, are now over and the teams are assembled.

Every year the region's Civil Protection authority has great difficulties in recruiting members for the special forest fire combat teams, admitted Vaz Pinto. Despite these difficulties, the Civil Protection chief said that all the teams have already been assembled, with exactly the same number of members as in 2009.

A total of 506 fire fighters, supported by 129 vehicles and three aircraft, will be on call from July 1st to September 30th.

The teams will comprise of fire fighters; GNR, PSP, Nature Conservation and Biodiversity Institute officers, and Army cadets.

Members for the special teams are recruited from local fire fighting stations, which is why there are such difficulties in recruiting. The main reason is due to the number of fire fighters in the Algarve not being proportional to the increasing number of tourists, making it hard to relieve them from their normal duties due to a higher demand for their services when the population of the region trebles. "We have been facing difficulties in recruiting fire fighters for the special teams, because we need them when the population trebles and their services are most needed, with more accidents and medical emergencies occurring" explained Vaz Pinto.

Faro's Civil Governor has expressed her concern over the possibility of fires in the upcoming months, as more combustible material than usual has grown due to the wet winter, which in turn has increased the risk of forest fires during the hotter months.

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Summer parties begin without Sasha or Nikki Beach

The summer season has officially started in the Algarve with hundreds of sensational parties being organised for the region's busiest season, although two of the region's biggest names from last summer, Sasha and Nikki Beach, will no longer be present in the Algarve's night scene.

Praia da Rocha will no longer be hosting the 'Sasha Summer Sessions' after one of the owners of the brand, Luís Evaristo, who had a three-year contract with Portimão, failed to pay vast amounts of money to the Council at the end of last year, claiming he was bankrupt. It was also the final year of the contract, which is why Portimão recently took ownership of the brand, as a method for Evaristo to repay his debts, which are estimated at €750,000.

Although there are no plans for the lengthy Sasha celebrations this summer, Portimão Council will be using the 3,000 square metre beach enclosure for a new gastronomy concept, where sunset parties will be complemented by exquisite gastronomic experiences.

For next year, 2011, the Council has announced it might be bringing back the 27 nights, 27 parties concept, which was brought to Praia da Rocha four years ago by Sasha, putting Praia da Rocha in the limelight all across Portugal.

In the meantime however, 'Nosolo Aqua Beach' will be promoting several parties at the Portimão Marina beach, with its first party having taken place on June 12th, attracting thousands of people who officially began their partying summer season.

In Vilamoura, the worldwide brand 'Nikki Beach' has been replaced by a Spanish counterpart 'Puro Beach', which Jorge Beldade, Tivoli's director, considers a "less exuberant concept, which appeals more to comfort but also adjusts to our hotel's clients."

Miami-style luxurious parties will no longer be taking place at the Tivoli Hotel's gardens, although the space will still be used for themed parties by the Spanish company.

Holidaymakers are spoilt for choice in the Algarve during the summer, with several exclusive beach parties organised all along the coast, such as Caneiros (Ferragudo), Prainha (Alvor), Falésia (Vilamoura), Manta Rota, among others. "The exclusive environment, areas reserved for VIP's, and good DJ's are the essential ingredients to make these sorts of parties famous" says local DJ 'D'Joy'.

'Safe Summer' operation in motion

A total of eighty Special Task Force Police have been added to the current taskforce patrolling the Algarve since the first official day of the summer, June 21st, in line with the 'Safe Summer' campaign.

According to the region's PSP commander, Vítor Rodrigues, the Special Task Force Police comprise of officers from several specialised departments, who have been living permanently in the Algarve since last year, but have now been "transferred to active and intense policing in areas with the highest number of tourists" during the summer months.

The extra eighty officers can be seen in Praia da Rocha, Faro, Olhão, Tavira and Vila Real de Santo António, with Lagos receiving a fifteen man reinforcement of Rapid Intervention Police from Lisbon.

These task forces are focussing on car parks and retail centres, as "we [the PSP] know it is at this time that there is an increasing amount of thefts and cars' contents being stolen, and also a higher risk of altercations occurring" said Vítor Rodrigues.

Although the region's PSP commander says more reinforcements may be required in Lagos, he believes the current additional officers are "enough". "Last year we only received these men and things went very well" he said, pointing out that between July and September 2009, the PSP registered a 7% reduction in crime.

"We cannot say we have more than enough men, we never do, but the officers we do have allow us to face any problems that might occur" concluded the commander of the PSP.

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Alentejo dethrones Algarve in travel 'Oscars'

This year the Alentejo pipped the Algarve to the post in taking the award for Best National Tourism Region after its southern rival had been awarded the title for three consecutive years.

The results of the annual Publituris Portugal Travel Awards, considered by those in the industry as the 'Oscars' of tourism, were announced last week. A lavish gala evening was held at the Hotel Tivoli Victoria, in Vilamoura (Algarve), during which the awards were announced.

For the first time in three years the Algarve did not take the most coveted award – best national region – which instead went to the Alentejo.

Ironically, the winner for 'Best National Tourism Region' was announced by the head of the Algarve Regional Tourism Board (ERTA), Nuno Aires, who joked that the award would be "on loan" to the Alentejo until 2011, when it would "have to be returned".

The award could be seen as the proverbial 'cherry on the cake' for the Alentejo region, which over the past year has made headlines for emerging from the financial crisis as the only region in Portugal to have registered an increase in tourism figures, visitors, occupancy and revenue included.

In the category of 'Best 5-star Hotel', the award went to the Ritz Four Seasons Hotel, in Lisbon, to the detriment of its competition such as the Tivoli Collections and the Blue & Green Tróia Design Hotel.

The winner for 'Best Hotel Resort' was the Vila Vita Park Resort & Spa, in the Algarve, which took the title from the Praia d'El Rey Golf & Beach Resort, in Óbidos, and the Choupana Hills Resort & Spa, Madeira.

In the category of 'Best Hotel Chain' the winner was the Tivoli Hotel & Resorts Group and 'Best Golf Course' was awarded to the 'Oitavos Dunes Natural Links Golfe', located within the Sintra-Cascais Natural Park.

Regarding transport, national airline TAP took the 'Best Airline' award, beating competition from Air France and Lufthansa.

'Best Low Cost Airline' was given to easyJet, who beat rivals Ryanair and AirBerlin to the title.

Within the 'Best Travel Agency' category, the award went to Nortravel', who beat off competition from two other candidates, Soltour and MundoVip. Travel and holiday website 'NetViagens' took first prize for best website travel agency.

Regarding car hire companies, Europecar beat Avis and Budget to the winning position, with the award for 'Best Incoming Operator' being given to Citur, for the sixth consecutive time.

Spain was bestowed the 'Best International Destination', being favoured over France and the Dominican Republic.

The Publituris Portugal Travel Awards candidates are nominated via an online voting system, which this year drew in some 7,000 participants. A jury of 13 experts then elects the winners from each category.

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Today Belgium, Tomorrow the European Union

Bart de Wever, the Flemish politician who promises the "evolutionary evaporation" of Belgium, is now the political king-maker in Brussels. The bureaucrats and politicians of the European Union, who also hang out in Brussels, will therefore have a ringside seat for the dismantling of the Belgian state. They should pay close attention, for their own turn may be coming.

Party chairman Bart De Wever talks during a press conference at the federal parliament in Brussels on 17 June. On the fourth day after the federal elections of Sunday, King Albert II of Belgium appointed N-VA chairman Bart De Wever as advisor in the process of forming a new government. Flemish party N-VA (new Flemish alliance), Flemish Nationalists, and PS French-speaking socialists, are the winners of Sunday's elections. (Photo:EPA/Dirk Waem)

De Wever's New Flemish Alliance won 28 percent of the vote in Dutch-speaking Flanders, the northern half of Belgium, in the national election on 14 June. Elsewhere that would not be an impressive result, but in the highly fragmented Belgian political system it counts as an avalanche.

A long struggle will now ensue while the many Flemish and Walloon parties struggle to form a coalition with a parliamentary majority. It's always a struggle, because there is very little by way of shared identity between the Flemish and the French-speaking Walloons. (After the 2007 election, it took 200 days to negotiate a coalition, and then there were three governments in three years.) Belgian politics has reached a state of semi-permanent paralysis.

The project for an independent Flanders is no longer a political pipe-dream, but the reaction elsewhere is likely to be a loud Who Cares? So we end up with a separate Flanders and a (reluctantly) independent Wallonia. We can live with that. However, the very thing that is destroying Belgium may also destroy the European Union, or at least drive it back to a much earlier version of itself.

It is customary, when discussing what's wrong with Belgium, to recite a history lesson about how the French-speaking part, Wallonia, was one of the first industrialised areas in Europe and dominated the Belgian state for over a century. The Flemish always resented their lower status, and after the Second World War the shoe moved to the other foot.

Wallonia's smokestack industries were dying, while Flanders got all the new high-tech industry and grew rich. By the 1980s the Flemish were powerful and confident enough to demand and get an extravagantly federal system, but in two key areas they failed. The Walloon political leaders ceded all sorts of powers to the various federal entities, but they managed to keep both taxation and social spending under the control of the central government.

So long as the Flemish politicians must negotiate with them about how money is collected and spent, the Walloons can ensure that a big chunk of federal spending is actually transfers of wealth from rich Flanders to poorer Wallonia (where unemployment is twice as high). After a few decades of subsidising the Walloons, many of the Flemish have concluded that the problem is the central government itself, and that the solution is its abolition.

Now consider the present difficulties of the European Union: most urgently the crisis of the euro currency, but more broadly the growing popular resistance to any further attempts to "broaden" or "deepen" the EU.

Might this be connected to the fact that the richer countries of northern Europe are getting fed up with the huge transfer of resources to southern Europe, and in particular with the way that their common currency has been undermined by the fiscal irresponsibility of the southern members? Of course it is, and it does not bode well for the future of the EU as currently constituted.

The architects of the euro half-understood that rich countries like Germany and France and relatively poor countries like Greece and Portugal need to run their currencies in different ways. The euro, as a one-size-fits-all straitjacket, was therefore a problematic currency from the start, but the elite policy-makers who wanted to "deepen" European unity were determined to have it anyway.

They tried to erase the north-south disparity by large transfers of resources from the rich to the poor countries, but that didn't really change the economic structures and political habits of the poorer, mostly Mediterranean countries – and it awakened a powerful sense of grievance among the rich. Like the Flemish in Belgium, the northern European countries that use the euro are running out of patience.

Large transfers of resources between different regions are possible if people at both ends of the exchange see themselves as part of the same greater enterprise. But the Flemish don't see themselves in that light – and neither do most ordinary people in the EU.

The "European" identity that has emerged with the growth of the EU in the past half-century is not a mere fantasy, but it is not a deeply rooted, instinctive identity for most people either. The sheer foot-dragging reluctance of the German government to finance the bail-out of Greece, even though the euro itself was at risk, is a measure of how deep the rot has gone.

Greece will probably declare bankruptcy in a couple of years, but the euro currency as a whole will survive until the next major recession. It will probably not survive beyond that, however, unless the national economic policies of EU countries can be subordinated to some all-powerful central bank. That is very unlikely to happen.

The euro, it turns out, was probably a step too far. Devised as a means of uniting Europe, it instead threatens to divide it fatally, and all the good that the previous, more modest version of the EU did could be lost.

Gwynne Dyer is a London based independent journalist whose articles are published in 45 countries.

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RELAX: GMT are just a phone call away 24:7!

Introducing a brand new concept in Property Maintenance in the Algarve, GMT 24:7 was established by Brett Hawkins, who together with his father and brother have a wealth of experience in the construction and property development sector in the Algarve having lived and worked here for more than 15 years.

GMT 24:7 strive to be the best, constantly innovating and always aiming to provide its client's increasingly better value for money. As a result they are the first in the Algarve to offer a truly independent Property Maintenance Club, where members benefit from a free 24:7 emergency callout service, guaranteed 60 minute emergency response time, free Home Improvements Loyalty Voucher system, and much more.

"Having been both a consumer, as well as a provider of services here in the Algarve for many years now, it's not difficult to spot the good, the bad as well as what's missing. Delivery of the range of services offered by GMT 24:7 have become common place in markets such as the UK & Ireland over the past few years, and I have believed for sometime now that it is about time the bar was raised here in the Algarve. As a result, GMT 24:7 treat its member's with the greatest level of respect; the Property Maintenance Club is a service that is here exclusively for our members, providing them with high quality services 24:7, whilst at the same time offering value for money, a concept which is not typically synonymous with the Algarve," says Brett Hawkins.

GMT 24:7 is a family business which takes pride in its pro-active approach to Property Maintenance, operating throughout the Western Algarve with a professional team adopting only the most ethical practices in a timely and honest manner, with a strict clean and tidy policy.

Members can relax in the knowledge that GMT are just a phone call away 24:7, everyday of the year! This unique service means that members are rest assured knowing that one call is all it takes, eliminating the need to go through middle-men or spend thankless time phoning round for a plumber, electrician, glazier, carpenter, painter, project manager, interior designer or other tradesman or specialist. GMT 24:7 provides a comprehensive and professional range of Property Maintenance & Home Improvement services.

"In creating the first ever Property Maintenance Club in the Algarve, our mission is to establish a long-term relationship with our member's, built upon a foundation of genuine trust. GMT 24:7 are always just a phone call away," says Brett Hawkins.

Pro-Active Property Marketing

Portugal Auctions offer a unique and innovative service, stimulating interest and promoting the sale of property through auctions, exhibitions and i-Spy360 virtual tours.

It has become evident this year that purchasers have been reluctant to visit the Algarve during past months - the ongoing credit crunch, months of wet weather and the ash cloud have not encouraged overseas purchasers to view properties.

In association with i-Spy360 Portugal, specialised software and HD Camera's have enabled Portugal Auctions to effectively send properties out of Portugal to the distant purchaser. This allows clients to view prospective properties through high quality imagery, building a story around businesses, holiday rentals and property for sale, forming a virtual tour and bringing locations to life!

Buying or Selling - there are great opportunities with motivated vendors selling at realistic prices on the Portugal Auctions Property Marketplace. View the virtual tours to inspect the properties from the comfort of your home, whether here in the Algarve or overseas on www.portugalauctions.com or contact Morag at i-Spy360 Portugal on 91 420 9965 to discuss a virtual tour of your property or business.

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The Denture Studio is located near Silves and is open from Monday to Friday, from 8am to 7pm, and on Saturdays from 2pm to 6pm. Alan Gale can also carry out denture repairs while you wait.

Abode Furniture

Abode Furniture is a leading European furniture pack specialist with branches both in Lagos and the UK. With a history of manufacturing, sourcing and retailing furniture for over 70 years, Abode is the only retailer and furniture pack company that enables customers to test and select either individual pieces of furniture or complete packages for delivery to their property in Portugal or Spain from either showroom making them the ideal choice for overseas owners.

Their ready-made furniture packages offer the perfect solution for new property buyers and they truly understand how precious their clients' time is. With vast experience and global contacts, Abode ensures that their clients receive the best quality furniture at the best possible price without compromising on design or function.

Turn key solutions showcase their most popular ranges which emphasise style, quality and value, whether for a permanent residence, holiday usage or rental investment. Due to popular demand Abode have recently added the new Corona Furniture Package to their collection, starting from £2,899. Abode supply directly to clients through their in-house, expert and professional installation team with their service including punctual delivery, professional installation and removal of all rubbish for off-site environmentally friendly disposal and recycling.

In addition to their various readymade packages, Abode offers bespoke solutions through their successful retail outlets with an impressive range of contemporary and traditional designed furniture and soft furnishings. Among the choices available are solid oak, walnut, beech, upholstered and leather sofas, Sealy and Silent Night beds and an array of modern and durable outdoor furniture including rattan, teak, abaca, aluminium and glass.

As the market leaders in terms of price, quality, reach and reputation, their clientele, from individual clients and investors to developers and hotel chains, stretches across the Iberian Peninsula and Europe, including the UK.

As well as expert design, Abode offers full post-sales support from an appointed account manager and full legal VAT/IVA receipts which can be off-set against income earned from your overseas property.

Dedicated to personal service for all clients, Abode makes sure that every need is met, no matter how large or small the requirements. Multi-lingual and knowledgeable staff are on hand to assist clients in choosing as little or as much as they would like to meet their exact tastes and needs.

If you are searching for value, choice and a one-stop shop without compromise to service then look no further than Abode Furniture.

THIS WEEK'S PROFILES

GMT

For more information on GMT, please visit www.gmt247.eu or call 282 098 600.

Alan Gale Denture Studio

For more information please call 282 442 302, 916 717 113 or email alan.ivor.gale@gmail.com.

Portugal Auctions

For more information on Portugal Auctions, please call Morag Richardson on 914209965 or visit www.portugalauctions.com.

Abode Furniture

For more information on Abode Furniture, please call +351 282 762 070, +44 (0)870 8032 970, fax 282 792 660, email info@abode-group.com or visit their website www.furnishyourabode.com.

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'One of the best embassies in the world' celebrates Queen's birthday

More than six hundred guests gathered last week for a reception at the official residence of the British Embassy in Lisbon to celebrate the Queen's birthday and the commercial partnership between the UK and Portugal.

British Ambassor Alex Ellis

Brendan de Beer

Guests, who included the Duke of Braganza, Dom Duarte, were personally greeted by hosts British Ambassador Alexander Ellis and his wife Teresa for over an hour, before setting off to enjoy the music by the band of the Portuguese Navy some of the food and beverages put on by sponsors by the event. According to a source at the Embassy, sponsors allowed for the garden party to be self-sufficient.

In his address, Mr. Ellis supplied some British humour when he told guests that when England had drawn against the U.S. after a goal-keeping blunder in the World Cup and Portugal had been unable to score against the Ivory Coast thought was given to organising a match between England and Portugal.

The idea was shelved as a pointless exercise it was thought that "England would let in too many goals while Portugal would be unable to score". Fortunately for both nations, goalkeeping errors are now a distant memory and scoring goals is something Portugal is now famous for after beating North Korea 7-0.

In fluent Portuguese – the ambassador worked for the British government in Lisbon for five years between 1992 and 1996, serving as third and later second secretary and it was during this time that he met his Portuguese wife, Maria Teresa Adegas – Mr Ellis thanked his team which runs "one of the best embassies in the world".

This compliment was later reciprocated by an official who has worked for the embassy for "decades", telling **The Portugal News**: "He is the best I have worked for". Mr. Ellis also made mention of the visiting consular staff from Portimão, who had never before attended the Queen's birthday celebrations in Lisbon.

This was also the final appearance Paul Rodwell in his capacity as Portimão Consul. Mr. Rodwell will be taking up a post in Alicante. His successor, believed to be a long-time female resident in the Algarve, is expected to be publicly announced in the coming week or two, having reportedly spent time recently receiving training to prepare her for the task of dealing with the 1.3 million British tourists who visit the region each year, while also aiding the tens of thousands of UK nationals resident in the Algarve.

Gov't fails to tackle Algarve's illegal accommodation

Summer in the Algarve – the peak season for tourism – is fast approaching yet the Portuguese government has made little to no progress in clamping down on the amount of unauthorised accommodation available in the region that drains the state of potential revenue.

It is estimated that there are currently around 200,000 'parallel beds' – unlicensed accommodation that is rented to tourists – in the Algarve, which creates direct and 'disloyal' competition for hotels and tourist resorts.

Owners of unlicensed rental accommodation avoid paying taxes on income. And even though, in 2008, the government created a ruling to simplify the licensing of such properties, only 3,000 proprietors – or 1.5 percent of existing parallel beds – have done so.

Reportedly, contrary to the complex procedures that are necessary to legalise a hotel, resort or camping grounds, for example, all that is required to legalise private tourist accommodation is a quick trip to the local town hall to present documents such as a floor plan of the property (which must also comply with specific health and safety requirements), and to fill in a handful of forms.

Even so, relatively few property owners have decided to officialise their activity, which for many is an alternative form of undeclared financial income.

The number of 'parallel beds' available in the Algarve at present is thought to be double the amount of legalised accommodation.

Regional tourism officials have said that this is having a "direct impact" on both legalised accommodation and the economy.

After killing two women, man attempts suicide

Two women were fatally shot by a man in Sines on Tuesday, one of the victims being the man's wife. After committing the horrific crimes, the man then attempted suicide.

The double homicide occurred at around 7pm on Tuesday evening, near the Morgavel dam, in Sines.

The motive for the crime has not been revealed by the GNR.

According to Setúbal's emergency medical team, the alleged murderer was taken immediately to the Litoral Alentejano Hospital, from where he was later transferred by helicopter to the Santa Maria Hospital, in Lisbon.

Parents of teen who died in Macao ask PM Sócrates for new investigation

The parents of Luís Amorim – a 17 year old whose 2007 death was ruled as suicide by Macao's authorities – demonstrated this past Tuesday outside a meeting between Macao Chief Executive Fernando Chui Sai and Portuguese Prime Minister José Sócrates, calling for a new investigation to be opened.

The parents and a few friends demonstrated peacefully at the door of Mr. Sócrates' official residence. Maria José Azevedo, Amorim's mother, told Lusa News Agency that despite the official inquiry's conclusion that her son had killed himself, there are indications of "violent acts having caused his death".

Mrs. Azevedo wants "a new investigation, led by a different team", and has appealed to Prime Minister Sócrates and to several Portuguese institutions.

Portuguese Foreign Minister Luís Amado said last Friday that both Portugal's and Macao's governments are "interested" in finding the whole truth about Amorim's death, while "fully respecting the sovereignty of the judicial branch".

TPN/Lusa

Saramago book sales rise tenfold

Portugal's largest retail book chain reported Tuesday a tenfold increase in sales of José Saramago books in the days following the Portuguese Nobel prize-winning novelist's death.

Bertrand told Lusa News Agency its store had sold 1,000 copies of Saramago books last Saturday and Sunday, ten times more than in the previous weekend.

The best selling titles were Saramago's most recent novel, 'Cain', and one of his most celebrated, 'Baltasar and Blimunda'.

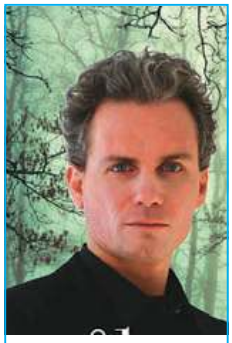
The FNAC chain also reported an "846% increase" in Saramago sales after his death compared to the three preceding days.

Zeferino Coelho, manager for Saramago's publisher Caminho, said that no special printings were necessary as the author's works are "constantly in print".

Spanish booksellers also reported great increases in Saramago sales.

TPN/Lusa

Piano Concert by Pål Lindtner Eide


Pål Lindtner Eide

These concerts will be on Wednesday June 30th. and Saturday July 3rd., 2010. Wednesday's concerts are titled "Chopin's Greatest Hits". Pål Eide has devoted 2010 to Fredéric Chopin's music to celebrate the 200th. Anniversary of this great pianist and composer's birth. Pål Eide will play 11 of Chopin's best known and loved pieces.

The Saturday concert will start with Grieg's greatest piano work, Ballad in G Minor Op. 24, which will be followed by Ravel's Gaspard de la Nuit. To close Pål will play two of Chopin's best loved works – the Sonata No. 2 in B Flat Minor Op. 35 and Ballad No. 1 in G Minor Op.23. At the end of each concert the audience will have an opportunity to purchase a signed copy of Pål's 'Listen', his newly released CD.

Pål Lindtner Eide was born in Bergen, Norway, in 1970 but has lived in Denmark with his Danish wife and three daughters for the past 20 years. He is a concert pianist who plays classical music from Bach to modern day composers. Pål has established a reputation as one of Scandinavia's most interesting and promising pianists of his generation

Concerts at the Centro Cultural, São Lourenço begin at 7.30pm sharp. Wine, lemonade and "nibbles" are served from 7.00pm. During the interval wine and canapés are served. Entry is €25 for guests and non-members. For more information visit: www.amigosde-musica.org or go to: www.centroculturalsaolourenco.com, or call 28935475.

Associacão Bamboo benefit

(L to R) Anja, guest and Paul having some fun.

A recent 'house-warming' party raised €840 from generous donations given by invited guests. Everyone gave their services and sponsorhsip free of charge in aid of the dog, donkey and horse sanctuary Associação Bamboo, which is based in the western Algarve.

"A great applause for 'Philipart' for his spectaculair illusion performance,The Pink Cadillicas for rocking us, Paul and Anja for their superb party organizing, Marian Trott - PPI Real Estate Agents for her enormous generosity, Margaret for her endless help, and Alma Verde Spa, Gerry Breen - the Aviator, Hotel Bela Vista, beautician Justine, Bangla, Bom Dia, beautician Samantha and Golf Resort Boa Vista for their generous raffle prices and ... a big 'Thank You' to all the guests for their caring. Bravo to all in gratitude", said Nana on behalf of Associação Bamboo.

Volunteers to help Nana at the sanctuary are always welcome. If you are interested in homing or helping visit their website: www.bambooalgarve.com, or call 282788345 or 968858924.

4th July Celebrations

Go along and join in the family fun day, taking part on Sunday, 4th July at Villas & Vacations located between Vale do Lobo and Quinta do Lago from 12pm till 6pm.

Everything for a great family fun day including a hog roast, DJ and karaoke, swimming pool (please bring a towel), tennis for kids, mini golf, bouncy castle, face painting, play frame, pool, table tennis, a display from Algarve Racing and lots more!

There will also be an adult mixed tennis tournament with great prizes for the winners followed by the men's Wimbledon final shown on a large plasma screen.

All in all a great day out for all the family!

Organised by B&W events. For more information or tickets please contact them on (00 351) 917227223 or (00 351) 969224111.

Theatre4rod - Benef*Actors auditions

In spite of heroic efforts to raise funds for Rod Smyth's kidney transplant; the generous donation of a kidney and monetary donations from a multitude of people here in the Algarve, Rod's family finds itself needing help to pay for extraordinary transport costs. Consequently, the Benef*Actors theatre group will be donating all the proceeds from its November production to Touche and Phoebe.

Benef*Actors' production will take place at the Lagoa auditorium in November and will be Ira Levin's 'Deathtrap'; probably the finest comedic thriller written for the stage. It is Ira Levin's best-known play, holding the record as the longest-running thriller on Broadway and bringing Levin his second Edgar Award.

The basic premise of the play is: How far will someone go to have a hit play? This is a story of hidden motives related to a play called 'Deathtrap' which is sure to be a big hit on Broadway. The play is full of twists and turns; some hidden and others apparently obvious. A great deal of the delight in this story is that there are many times when the audience feels that they know exactly what the characters are going to do. But each time we're certain we know which way the plot is going, Levin pulls the rug right out from under us.

Auditions will be held at the Silves Cine Teatro on Monday, July 5th at 7:00 pm. For those interested but who cannot make that date, please call to arrange an alternative. The characters are:

Sidney Bruhl, a successful playwright suffering from writers block. 40 to 60 years old.

Myra Bruhl, Sidney's wife, a nervous, highly strung woman. 40 to 60 years old.

Clifford Anderson, a young playwright hoping for Sidney's help. 20 to 30 years old.

Helga Ten Dorp, a Dutch psychic and neighbour of the Bruhls. 30 to 60 years old.

Porter Milgrim, Sidney's lawyer Could be female. 40 to 60 years old.

Benef*Actors is looking for actors wanting a challenge and for support staff in the areas of lighting, sound, props, set construction and stage management. Those interested in helping with this charitable venture can call 289 367 383. Further information can be found on our website: www.benefactorstheatregroup.com.

Déjà Vu gallery features two powerful female artists

Allegorical paintings by two remarkably powerful women artists, Claudia Brito of Silves and Rita Ventura of Lisbon, will be featured alongside an eclectic mix of other works at an open-house get-together at Déjà Vu in Ferragudo this Saturday evening, 26th June.

Déjà Vu has attracted widespread public interest for its highly unusual and colourful mix of contemporary paintings, sculptures, ceramics, photographic images, as well as designer jewellery and period furniture.

The shop is the brainchild of Angélica Padua and her partner Jerome Gay who combine their own artist talents with entrepreneurial skills. The artists and artisans they promote, like their clientèle, are drawn from various age groups within the Portuguese and foreign sections of the community, from the Algarve and beyond.

This Saturday's special event takes place in the wake of the official opening of Déjà Vu in May this year. Since then it has rapidly built a reputation based on an innovative style and diversity unlike any other artistic establishment in the region.

Déjà´Vu is situated close to the square in Ferragudo. Saturday's convivial open-house, with drinks and snacks, is from 5pm until late in the evening. The shop's normal hours are from Tuesdays to Saturdays, 10am to 1pm and 5pm to 10pm.

For further information, please ring Angélica Padua on 912876646 or email angelpadua@hotmail.com

Déjà´Vu's Gallery in Ferragudo.

Birgit Wegemann and The Aljezur Choir

Birgit Wegemann and The Aljezur Choir - are at The Silves Cine-Theatre Club (Silves Cinema) on Thursday, July 15th. There will be a wide range of songs from the renaissance period right up to modern times. Birgit herself will also select solos from her considerable repertoire.

Come and be part of this memorable evening. Starts at 8pm. Entrance €7. Bar open from 7.30pm Reservations with Sue on: 282 330 242 or 968 335 856.

The opinions expressed here are those of our readers and not necessarily of The Portugal News. The editor reserves the right to edit letters or refuse publication. Send your letters, which must include your name and full postal address (even if you wish to remain anonymous on the page), and should be under 300 words, to The Portugal News, Apartado 13, 8401-901 Lagoa. E-mail address: letters@theportugalnews.com

Experts?

SIR, I don't know what has prompted Philip Villar to object to a letter I wrote six weeks ago but my disparaging remarks about self-professed 'experts' over-reaction to volcanic ash have obviously rankled.

During my years with a major national construction company I met dozens of these self-important nobodies employed by the client at the contractor's expense. The value of their 'expert' opinion was usually in inverse proportion to their fee. A card pinned to my notice board for years summed it up: 'Shall we call in the experts or bugger it up ourselves'.

I should be 'grateful to the millions of experts who make my life secure and convenient' writes Mr. Villar. Does he mean 'experts' like those who banned the use of DDT so that malaria, which had practically been eliminated, is back and killing millions annually? BSE 'experts' who predicted that hundreds of thousands of us would be dead in ten years and practically destroyed the UK beef industry? Salmonella 'experts' who did the same for egg producers? 'Experts' on foot and mouth disease who cost farmers more billions? 'Experts' who continue to get it so expensively wrong about the effect of periodic influenza outbreaks? The list is endless.

Information about the future whereabouts and density of the ash cloud is calculated by the UK Meteorological Office based on data about the eruption supplied by the Icelandic Authorities. This is entered into a computer programme. Other parameters are then entered and the programme run. I have no faith in computer simulations because the parameters can be changed until an answer approximating that wanted is eventually arrived at.

Give me the practical man every time. Like the guys who took planes up and *measured* the amount of volcanic dust. And guess what? It was often too small to register.

RON LAVERY, By e-mail

Reply to Mr. Villar

SIR, Philip Villar (The Portugal News, 19 June) is a trifle out of date. It is many decades since pilots needed to be able to see out. I am currently flying over the UK through a great sea of white. You cant see further than a few yards. If you are reading this we made it to the runway, but not thanks to experts, rather the thanks are due to inventors and technicians. They do things. Experts sit on their backsides and pontificate.

The recent shutdown in air traffic was insane by any standards. There was a thick band of volcanic ash over the Shetland Isles. It showed up clearly on the satellite pictures. Glasgow airport was open for business, Gatwick was shut. Go figure.

A couple of days later we heard there was ash at 50,000 ft. When did you last get in a plane that flies that high?

No, Mr. Villar, we are plagued by consultants and experts. They are usually utterly useless, cost more than inventors and technicians, and usually know less than the average ten year old.

The group of experts you are referring to take home huge salaries and after ten years dont appear to have even worked out their business parameters, or evolved operational procedures for a volcanic cloud. They then refused to allow reconnoissance flights.

It is sickening to note that the first plane to lose engine power by flying into a cloud of volcanic ash did so because the experts failed to tell the pilot that a volcano had erupted right on his flight path. Doh! Who will save us from this plague of experts?

JOHN CLARE, Arao

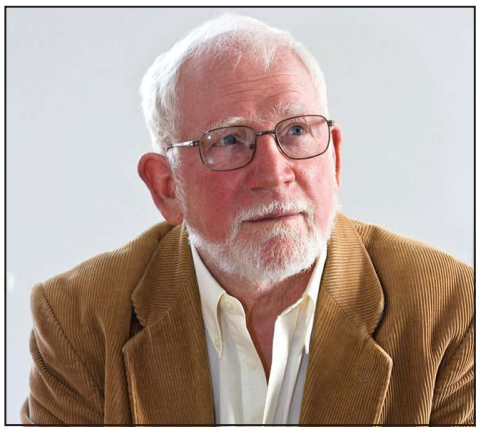
A poem from the seas

I once saw, where the horizon ends, a ship plough the sky.
White tears on pale blue, and I saw the waiting darkness;
I knew, before any others, it would be a starlit night.
Look, I said, but it was too late, the ship had cast anchor
behind a cloud loading mist for Dogger Banks, and take
onboard discarded dreams to plug the dikes of Amsterdam.
Sunflowers on mythical sea and red flying fish, my ship is
bound for the Saragossa Sea with a hold full of old sailors,
it's here they come to stalk in the fog of the forgotten.

J. OSKAR HANSEN

Obitury

Brian Pereira – 1st January 1940 to 25th April 2010



On Sunday, 25th April, Brian Pereira, devoted husband to Sue Pereira, sadly passed away following an extremely brave fight against cancer. He will be sorely missed by his wife and family.

Brian and Sue moved to the Algarve in 1993, having visited family here regularly for some years. Though it was Sue's family they were visiting, it was Brian who fell head over heels in love with this country and its people. And so, on his retirement, they left their life in the UK behind them and settled in to their new home in São Bras de Alportel.

It didn't take Brian long to make new friends and to get involved in all manner of projects. Having a background within Children and Families in a local authority, he was naturally drawn towards helping people in the community, and he enthusiastically became a member of ACCA (helping children in need in the Algarve). His philosophy was very much about 'helping people to help themselves'. He wanted to reach out to the children and their families and help them to change their situation for the better, for good.

Brian visited projects all across the Algarve and, to anyone who accompanied him, it was obvious that 'Senhor Brian' was very popular and highly respected. One of his 'pet' projects was a scheme which he set up between ACCA and AAPACDM in Faro (a part-residential day care centre for children and young people with learning difficulties). Through this scheme a number of young people have been sponsored to undertake vocational training, with a view to them obtaining work in catering, gardening etc. These young people need to work to help contribute to their own families' income, so the training is a real life line for them. ACCA recently announced that they will continue this scheme in honour of Brian, for the foreseeable future.

In addition Brian lent a sympathetic ear and words of encouragement to many people during his time here. And it is true to say that he made a real difference to the lives of everyone he touched. In fact, since his passing, more than a few have come forward to express their gratitude to Brian for his support in their times of trouble.

Equally, Sue Pereira would like to say her own special thank you, on behalf of herself and Brian, to all those individuals who helped them over the last six months, during his protracted and very difficult stay in Portimão Hospital. They are too many to mention but they know who they are.

Finally, Sue would like to express her deep gratitude for the respect and kindness shown to Brian by the staff at ***Faro Hospital***, where he ended his long fight. She is pleased to announce a donation of €1,000 to the Oncology Unit there in Brian's name, most of which was donated by friends and family who attended the memorial service, kindly hosted by Monte da Palhagueira Retirement Village Gorjões on Friday 4th June, led by Rev. Bob Bates at St. Luke's Anglican church.

Brian John Pereira – a tragic loss but a true pleasure to have known.

club news

Renowned UK dog show raises funds for LAPS

The Cranbourne Annual Companion Dog Show, which is held in the UK, will this year be celebrating its 25th anniversary and to commemorate the landmark achievement has organised a 'bumper event' in which it hopes to raise funds for various dog charities around the world.

This year the show is due to take place on Sunday, June 27th, at The Memorial Ground, Warfield, Bracknell, Berkshire.

Amongst nominated charities this year are The Foundation of Abandoned & Mistreated Animals in Malaga, Spain, and the Lagos Animal Protection Society, Algarve, Portugal.

As show secretary Sheila Hamilton Andrews, MSc, CCAB, said in a newsletter: "The latter two charities are both run by British ex-pats and all rely on charitable donations. I'm sure you will agree they are all doing valuable work".

The show will feature guest judge Robert Alleyne, who found fame on the 'Dog Borstal' TV show, as well as a raffle that has as a main prize a Private Box at Ascot Racecourse, for 14 people, on July 25th, 2010.

Bike rides

Saturday, 26th June - Bike Ride: starting at Loule Railway station. We will meet here at 09.30am and catch the 09.48am westbound train. After around half an hour on the train, we will cycle back on a journey of around 35km. There will be a cafe stop somewhere along the way

Sunday, 27th June - Bike Ride: starting in Paderne. We will meet in the car park by the football stadium in Paderne. Meet here at 09.45am for a 10.00 start. This ride will be around 30km and mostly along flattish and gentle tracks and roads. There will be a cafe stop somewhere along the way

Wednesday, 30th June - Bike Ride starting at Oscars in Vilasol. This will be a fairly challenging ride of around 25km on a mixture of dirt track roads and also tarmac. Drinks and snacks at Oscars afterwards !

For more information call Paul Beesley on 913226954 or e.mail: paul.beesley@sapo.pt or visit 'Algarve Bike Rides' on Facebook.

Portuguese for Beginners

Emília Rosendo

171

THIS LESSON: Regular *-ER* verbs in *Presente do Conjuntivo*

Today's lesson deals with the formation of the ***Presente do Conjuntivo*** (*Present Subjunctive*) of a regular verb in ***-ER***.

COMER (*to eat*) is the **infinitive** or the name of the verb. It is made up of a **stem**, ***COM-*** and an **ending**, ***-ER***.

To **conjugate** a **regular verb** in ***-ER*** in ***Presente do Conjuntivo*** we need to know what **endings** are required.

	COM	ER	
eu	com	a	*Eu com**a***
tu	com	as	*Tu com**as***
ele			*Ele com**a***
ela	com	a	*Ela com**a***
você			*Você com**a***
nós	com	amos	*Nós com**amos***
eles			*Eles com**am***
elas	com	am	*Elas com**am***
vocês			*Vocês com**am***

① Put in the *Presente do Conjuntivo* of the verbs in brackets.

a) É difícil acreditar que os dois idosos _____ ***(viver)*** sozinhos na aldeia, mas é verdade!

b) Espero que nós _____ ***(receber)*** mais turistas no próximo mês de Agosto.

c) Hoje à noite nós vamos jantar fora mesmo que _____ ***(chover)*** torrencialmente.

d) É importante e útil para a carreira da Ana que ela _____ ***(aprender)*** alemão.

e) Duvido muito que este bolo _____ ***(cozer)*** em tão pouco tempo.

f) As crianças esperam que a neve não _____ ***(derreter)*** completamente antes da sua chegada à montanha.

g) É provável que, no próximo ano, eles _____ ***(vender)*** a casa de campo e _____ ***(escolher)*** um apartamento na cidade.

h) É pena que o Rui não _____ ***(escrever)*** mais frequentemente à família e aos amigos.

i) Talvez eles _____ ***(beber)*** uns cinco cafés e _____ ***(comer)*** três bolos por dia.

Please send your completed exercises with a **STAMPED, SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE**, to me: Emília Rosendo at **The Portugal News** and I will return them corrected. **The Portugal News • Apartado 13 • 8401-901 Lagoa. To view/download past lessons go to: http://www.epaper.theportugalnews.com**

Windows 7 Editions

With three main editions of Windows 7, Microsoft has cut back the number of Windows SKU's (Stock Keeping Units), but it's still important to know the difference between the various editions.

Due in part to the confusion caused by Microsoft's Windows Vista version strategy, Microsoft opted to reduce the number of available systems from six versions for Windows Vista down to three for Windows 7. This makes it easier for users to decide which version they're looking to upgrade to.

As an added bonus, Microsoft has included both 32-bit and 64-bit copies of the operating system within each retail version of Windows 7. I will discuss the difference between 32-bit and 64-bit versions at the end of my article. For those of you who are looking to purchase OEM (Original equipment manufacturer) systems, you will have to choose which version you want as OEM versions can only be installed and used on one computer. You will not be able to install it on a different computer afterwards.

All the Versions

New computers typically come with Windows 7 preinstalled. In addition to the three main products described below including Home Premium, Professional and Ultimate, Microsoft did release an OEM only version called Windows 7 Starter Edition that can be included on some models of netbooks.

Windows 7 Starter

Although you are be able to run any version of Windows 7 on a netbook, assuming you've got the specifications, Windows 7 Starter was designed with netbooks in mind. Windows 7 Starter is only offered to OEM partners to install on netbooks prior to customer purchase. The idea here is that this version of Windows 7 is more limited in nature, but it is still capable of handling the types of tasks that one normally performs on a netbook. Also, Windows 7 Starter is cheaper than other versions of Windows 7 so that manufacturers can pass that saving along to consumers, keeping the overall price of the netbook as low as possible. As far as differences between Windows 7 Starter and Home Premium, there are a lot. Windows 7 Starter is limited from Home Premium in that it **does not have**:

• Aero Glass themes. With Windows 7 Starter, you can only use Windows Basic or other opaque themes. With Aero themes, you have the ability to use taskbar previews (hover over an icon in the taskbar to preview) and Aero Peek (a convenient way of flipping through Windows and apps). Windows 7 Starter does not support these features.

• The ability to change desktop backgrounds, Windows colours, or default Windows alert sounds.

• Easy switch between different user accounts without logging off.

• Dual or Multi monitor capabilities.

• DVD Playback compatibility.

• Windows Media Center.

• Media streaming capabilities, allowing you to stream music, videos, or television.

Windows 7 Home Edition

Windows 7 Home Premium includes the following features:-

• Basic Windows 7 features such as improved user interface, mouse shortcuts, and search improvements.

• Windows Media Center – which used to be a separate edition of Windows, now allows users to allow Windows to act as a Digital Video Recorder and more.

• HomeGroup – replacing the old "Workgroup" functionality – allows computers to interact while on the same network.

• Backup – allows for full system and image based backup and restore to DVD or local media.

Windows Home is really meant as the ideal option for home users or even small businesses. It's priced significantly less than Professional and as long as you have less than 5-10 PC's on your network, Home Premium is sufficient.

Windows 7 Professional

Windows 7 Professional builds on the feature set of Home Premium, but adds desired business features such as:

• Windows XP Mode – allows you to run Windows XP in a virtual machine in order to be able to run older software that is incompatible with Windows 7.

• Domain Join – This is a necessary feature for most businesses with more than 5-10 PC's on their network. This feature allows you to join a domain and use various Server functionalities.

• Network Backup – This improves on the basic backup functionality included in Home Premium by giving you the option to backup and restore to and from network locations.

Windows 7 Ultimate

Ultimate edition includes all of the features included in the other two editions, but adds two more:

• Bitlocker – this feature is useful for laptop users and allows users to encrypt their hard drive to better protect their system from compromise should their laptop be stolen.

• Support for multiple languages

Again, Ultimate is geared towards the business user. If the only thing you are looking for is drive encryption, you can find other tools for free. If you do need support for multiple languages however, Windows 7 Ultimate is the version to go for.

The difference between 32 & 64-Bit Computers

Although 64-bit processors have been around for a while, more and more people are recognizing the phrase "64-bit" since the release of Windows Vista – and even more so with the debut of Windows 7. However, since recognizing a phrase and understanding it are two different things, many still have questions concerning the difference between 32-bit and 64-bit computing. Since many people are now upgrading to Windows 7, the 32-bit vs. 64-bit comparison is more topical than ever.

One matter that is confusing to some is the distinction between a 64-bit processor and a 64-bit operating system. When speaking of a 64-bit processor, I am actually referring to a physical CPU that can handle up to 64 pieces, or bits, of binary information at a time. If you plan on installing a 64-bit operating system, then you must have a 64-bit processor even though the reverse is not true. In fact, it's fairly common to have a 32-bit operating system running on a 64-bit processor.

Of course, if you want to take full advantage of a 64-bit processor, you need to be running a 64-bit operating system as well. One of the main perks in switching to a 64-bit OS is increased memory support. With a 32-bit system, you're really restricted to no more than 4 GB of RAM. On the other hand, a 64-bit system can *theoretically* support 16 *exabytes* of RAM. Just in case you're counting here, one exabyte is equivalent to over one million gigabytes. Now, that's a lot of memory.

How Much RAM Can 64-bit Windows Handle?

Even though it is possible to support these massive amounts of memory, it's really not practical, especially on the average home machine. Not only do you have to deal with PC hardware restrictions, you also have to pay attention to what the operating system can access. For instance, the various 64-bit versions of Windows Vista can access anywhere from a maximum of 8 GB to 128 GB of RAM. Still, that's a marked improvement on the 4 GB max for 32-bit operating systems.

Windows 7 does push these limits a little further. Although the 64-bit version of Home Premium only supports 16 GB of RAM, the Professional and Ultimate editions all have physical memory support of 192 GB.

Despite this very appealing advantage, there are still quite a few cons to 64-bit operating systems that could cause headaches to the average home user – mainly, the rest of the world still needs to catch up. Although there are some signs that the 64-bit versions of Windows are gaining momentum, even Microsoft acknowledges that there are several compatibility issues on both the hardware and software fronts.

In short, if there is some piece of software or hardware that you can't live without, it's best to do a little research before investing in a 64-bit OS. However, this doesn't mean that you have to shy away from a 64-bit processor, especially if you're looking to buy a machine that you want to last awhile.

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NORTH

Daily

CALDAS DA RAINHA
Museu José Malhoa - Paintings, sculptures, drawings, watercolours and ceramics in temporary and permanent exhibitions - Parque D. Carlos I - T. 262 831 984

CALDAS DA RAINHA
Municipal Museum - Since (1985) the construction of António Duarte Atelier and Museum, the Local Council of Caldas da Rainha has been constructing one of the most important nucleus of Portuguese Sculpture of the 20th century. The exhibit, conservation, study and divulgation of the collections is divided between the three museums - T. 262 840 280

ESPINHO
Dance Show The Michael Jackson 'Tribute Dance' - Casino de Espinho daily - 20h30 (dinner) and 22h30 (show) - €20 (dinner-show, Sunday to Thursday) €32.50 (dinner-show, Friday and Saturday) - T. 227 335 500 - www.solverde.pt

GUARDA
Museu Municipal de Arte Moderna Abel Manta - The collection includes works by Carlos Botelho, Júlio Resende, Menez, Paula Rego, Vespeiro, António Dacosta and many others - Open: Tuesday to Sunday from 10h00 to 12h30 and from 14h00 to 17h00 - Free entrance - Rua Direita, 45, Gouveia - T. 238 493 648

PORTO
Casa da Música - Guided visits from Mon-Sun: 10h30; 11h30; 12h30; 15h00; 16h00; 17h00; 18h00 - Tickets can be bought until 10 minutes before visit - Price: €2; Free for children under 12 - T. 220 120 214 - Avenida da Boavista, 604-610 - www.casadamusica.com

PORTO
Serralves Foundation - Visits to the exhibitions - Sat: 17h-20h; Sun: 12h-13h - to the architectonic spaces (museum & Casa de Serralves) Sun: 15h-16h - Visits to the park; Sun: 11h-12h - Visits are free on the purchase of an entrance ticket to the museum - Location: Rua D. João de Castro, 210 - T. 226 156 584 -www.serralves.pt

Until June 27

GUIMARÃES
Exhibition by Fernando Brito - Palácio Vila Flor- Price: €1 (€0.50 w/ discount) - Av. D. Afonso Henriques, 701 - T. 253 424 700 - www.ccvf.pt

PORTO
Musical Show: God Save the Queen - Tribute to Queen - World Tour 2010 - 20h00 Coliseu do Porto - Rua Passos Manuel, 137 - T. 223 394 940 - www.coliseudoporto.pt

Until June 30

VILA REAL
Exhibition 'Roman women in the museum's coins' - Museu de Arqueologia e Numismática de Vila Real - 259 320 340

Until July 3

CASTELO BRANCO
Exhibition 'Bridging the gap between Visual Arts, Architecture and Interior Design' by António Dias Ribeiro - Governo Civil Castelo Branco - Monday to Friday from 14h00 to 18h00 - www.adr-designart.com

July 6

PORTO
Concert by Melody Gardot promoting her album 'My One and Only Thrill' at Sala Suggia of Casa da Música - 21h30 - Avenida da Boavista, nº 604-610 - T. 220 120 214

July 16

VILA NOVA DE GAIA
Placebo in concert - Festival Marés Vivas '10 - Tickets: See info at bottom of page

July 17

VILA NOVA DE GAIA
Ben Harper in concert - Festival Marés Vivas '10 - Tickets: See info at bottom of page

August 20-23

VIANA DO CASTELO
Romaria da Srª da Agonia (Religious Street Festivities) - Procession starting at Bom Jesus Chapel

www.theportugalnews.com

CENTRE

Daily

CASCAIS
Cascais Cultural Centre - Concerts, shows, exhibitions, & other events. - shops, coffee shop & terrace - Open: 10h00-18h00 (Closed Mon) - Av. Rei Humberto II de Itália - T. 214 848 900

CASCAIS
Sea Museum 'Rei D. Carlos' - Rua Júlio Pereira de Mello - 10h-19h; closed Mon & holidays - T. 214 825 400

ESTORIL
Casino Estoril - Praça José Teodoro dos Santos - T. 214 667 700 - Info.estoril@estoril-sol.com

LISBON
Mercado da Ribeira - On the riverfront, this popular market is the Coolest Place in Town - Crafts, events, gastronomy • Av. 24 de Julho

LISBON
National Coach Museum - Set in a 17th century riding school, with a varied collection of royal coaches, uniforms and portraits of the royal family - Open from 10h00 to 17h30 (Closed Mondays) and public holidays) - Praça Afonso de Albuquerque - T. 213610850

LISBON
Oceanarium - Spectacular design by Peter Chermayeff, it is one of Europe's biggest oceanarium - Park of Nations - 10h00 to 18h00 - T. 218 917 002

LISBON
Influxcontemporary - A museum dedicated to African Contemporary Art - Open from Wednesday to Saturday from 14h00 to 19h00 - Rua Fernando Vaz, 20B - T. 918 501 234 - iwww.influxcontemporary.com

SANTARÉM
Visit the Casa-Museu Braamcamp Freire on Rua Braamcamp Freire - T. 243 304 480/1

June 26

ERICEIRA
Sumol Sumer Fest at Ericeira Camping - Music, Surf, Friends, Good vibes are all the ingredients of this Festival - www.sumolsummerfest.com

June 26 to July 31

SINTRA
Exhibition 'ambiente' (environment) - A collective response to the concerns for our environment - Grupo de Artistas SintrArte situated behind the Café Moinho Verde, Pátio do Zézinho, A3, Rua da Fonte, Almoçageme, Colares, Sintra - info@sintra-arte.com - www.sintra-arte.com

Until June 27

ALMADA
Painting Exhibition by Duarte Geraldes - Teatro Municipal de Almada - Av. Prof. Egas Moniz - T. 212 739 360

June 27

LISBON
Concert by Orchestre Poly-Rythmo de Cotonou (Benin) - 19h00 - Open Air Amphitheatre of Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation - Avenida de Berna, 45-A - T. 217 823 000 - www.gulbenkian.pt

Until Jun 30

LISBON
Lisbon Festivities '10: Street Animation! - Street animation and dancing throughout the city - Pick up a programme at the Lisbon City Hall.

July 2,3 & 4

LISBON
Delta Tejo Festival - Music Festival with Bands like: Buraka Som Sistema, Shaggy, Ska Cubano, Susana Felix and many others - Tickets: €25 (3 days: €40) - For tickets see details at bottom right ofthe page - www.deltatejo.com

July 10-Sep 15

ESTORIL
Collective Painting, Sculpture & Drawing Exhibition 'The Animals and the Art' - This exhibition is a way to celebrate the Biodiversity Year - Casino Estoril Art Gallery - T. 214 667 700 - info.estoril@estoril-sol.com

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SOUTH

Daily

LAGOS
Charity Shop in Amádena
Charity Shop in what was old supermarket on the square past 'Brody' and 'O Poço' restaurants - LAPS - Lagos Animal Protection Society - T. 282 687 334

Daily

SILVES
Exhibition of artwork by Hilary Cunningham - Vivenda Rosal Pedreira - Watercolour, pen ink & wash, oil & pastel. Prior to visit, please call 282 332 190 or 917 169 053

Every Monday

LAGOS
Free concert The New Orleans Jazzband at Tivoli Hotel - 20h30 - Details 935 086 365

June 26

TAVIRA
Tavira Jazz & Wine Fest - 21h00 - Barril Beach

TAVIRA
Almadrava Anniversary Gala - 20h30 - Hotel Vila Galé

June 27

ALMANCIL
Bollywood BBQ Lunch And Family Fun Day In Aid Of The New ASCA Care Home (11h00 - 16h00) - A variety of activities ranging from Henna Tattoos, Fashion Shows, Fashion Accessories and Soft Furnishings- O Pelicano The Indian Take Away Restaurant - 916 917 941 or 914 439 444.

Until June 28

TAVIRA
Almadrava Handicraft Exhibit - 19h00-24h00 - Mercado da Ribeira

TAVIRA
Popular Music and Dance Festival - Pavilhão Desportivo Dr. Eduardo Mansinho - 21h30

Until June 29

TAVIRA
Popular Saints Traditional Festival (Street Animation) - 21h - Streets around the town

Until June 30

LAGOA
Exhibition by Willem Sneijers - Convento S. José - Rua Joaquim Eugénio Júdice - T. 282 380 434

June 30

ALMANCIL
Piano Concert by Pal Lindtner Eide - São Lourenço Cultural Centre - 19h30 - T. 289 395 475

PORTIMÃO
Exhibition 'Posta Restante-The Travels of the writer president - Casa Manuel Teixeira Gomes - Monday to Friday: 10h00-19h00; Sat: 15h00-19h00

Until July 1

LOULÉ
Painting Exhibition 'things get damaged, things get broken' by Paulo Guerreiro - Tea Room and Art Gallery Chá D'Arte - D. Pedro I Square, Ground Floor, nº 5-6 - It will also be on display during the MED Festival

For more events, see our Club and Community Pages - pp26-27 and our Classifieds - pp 58-62

Until July 3

LAGOS
Exhibition of Watercolour and Oil Paintings by Clive Cook at Cachoa Restaurant on Quatro Estradas, at Luz - Tel: For viewing and Restaurant times 282 782 822 - Mobile: 916 720 981 - www.clivecookpaintings.com

Until July 18

PADERNE
Exhibition 'An Exuberant Sense of Freedom' is on display at Galeria Corte Real - To get there: From the protected village of Paderne follow the signs 'Corte-Real' - The gallery is open Thu through Sun from 11h00 to 17h00 TM: 912 737 762 / 918 980 199 - www.corterealarte.com

Until July 31

SERPA
Exhibition 'Relógios mecânicos de 1910 a 1970' (Mechanical Clocks from 1910 to 1970) – Museu do Relógio (Clock Museum) - T. 284 543 194

Until August 1

LAGOS
Art Display by Ivan Franco & Kathy Hinde, Joanna Callaghan, Johan Grimonprez, Jorge La Feria, Luís Alegre, Mark Lewis, Matthias Müller & Christoph Girardet, Miguel Soares, Patricia Betancur, Paula Roush, Rui Toscano, Rui Valério and Tracey Moffatt - Centro Cultural de Lagos on Rua Lançarote de Freitas, nº 7 - T. 282 770 450

Until September 29

ESTÓI
Exhibition 'Pássaro em Terra' (Bird on land) by René Bertholo - Estói Milreu Ruins - 10h30-13h00 / 14h00-18h30 (closed Mondays)

Until October 22

PERA
8th International Sand Sculpture Festival: Theme: Living World - 10h00 to 24h00 (15 Sep to 22 Oct from 10h00 to 20h00) - Fiesa is located on the EN524 road between Pera and Algoz (From EN125, at Pera crossaroad, follow the indication for Algoz)

Until October 31

PORTIMÃO
Exhibition 'Entre dois séculos e dois regimes' (Between two centuries and two political rulings) - Portimão Museum

Until November 27

LOULÉ
Exhibition 'Mendes Cabeçadas e a Primeira República do Algarve' - Municipal Museum

Until December 30

SINES
Exhibition 'O Séc. XX em Sines: uma geografia da memória' (The 20th Century in Sines: a memory geography) - Sines Museum de Sines - 269 632 237 - www.sines.pt

Until December 31

SÃO BRÁS DE ALPORTEL
Exhibition 'Fluorovision' - Fluorovision Gallery - 18h00-24h00

www.theportugalnews.com

Events may be cancelled, delayed or fail to live up to their billing. Send us your events to copy@theportugalnews.com by Tuesday before publication.

PREVIEW

July 16,17,18 - Sesimbra - Rock Festival - At the Super Bock Stage on 16th July: Concerts by Pet Shop Boys, Keane, Cut Copy, Mayer Hawthorne and Jamie Lidell; 17th July: Concerts by Letfield, Vampire Weekend, Hot Chip, Julian Casablancas, Tiago Bettencourt & Mantha; 18th July: Concerts by Prince, Empire of the Sun, The National, Spoon, Stereophonics and Palma's Gang - Many more concerts on EDP and @Meco Stages - To buy tickets, see bottom right of the page and visit the website - Prices: Daily € 40; 3 days (including camping) €70 - Herdade do Cabeço da Flauta, Praia do Meco - http://www.superbock.pt/SuperMusic/SuperBockSuperRock/

July 22, 23 and 24 - Guimarães - The garden of Centro Cultural Vila Flor will be again the stage of three concerts by ***Manta School of Seven Bells, Blood Red Shoes and The Phenomenal Handclap Band*** - The concerts start at 22h00 - Ticket prices: €10 - Centro Cultural Vila Flor I Av. D. Afonso Henriques, 701 - T. 253 424 700 - www.ccvf.pt

July 8, 9 and 10 - Lisbon - Optimus Alive! - Music Festival in Algés - Optimus Stage: Faith No More, Kasabian, Alice in Chains, Deftones, Skunk Anansie, Manic Street Preachers, Jet, Pearl Jam, LCD Sound System, Gogol Bordello, Dropkick Murphys, Gomez, Gossip, Simian Mobile, Disco Live, Peaches, and many others - www.optimusalive.com

TICKETS: Most tickets are available at FNAC and Worten outlets across the country, ATM machines, Abreu agencies, El Corte Inglès, Casa Viola, Ticketline or at the event itself on the night.
Websites: www.pavilhaoatlantico.pt / www.ticketline.pt / www.blueticket.pt / Phone numbers: Ticketline 707 234 234 / 707 780 000

ALGARVE

SBC FORUMALGARVE TEL: 289 887 212

24 JUN-30 JUN

1
Marmaduke PV
Owen Wilson, Lee Pace
(11.00 Sat & Sun) 14.00-16.30-18.45
Robin Hood
Russell Crowe, Cate Blanchett
21.00 (00.05 Fri & Sat)
2
StreetDance
Nichola Burley, Richard Winsor
(11.55 Sat & Sun) 14.30
She's Out of My League
Jay Baruchel, Alice Eve
17.15-19.40-22.05 (00.25 Fri & Sat)
3
Brooklyn's Finest
Richard Gere, Don Cheadle
13.50-18.50-21.40 (00.30 Fri & Sat)
Astro Boy - Animation PV
(10.30 Sat & Sun) 16.40
4
The Back-Up Plan
Jennifer Lopez, Alex O'Loughlin
14.10-16.30-19.00-21.20 (00.00 Fri & Sat)
The Princess and the Frog
Animation PV
(10.20 Sat & Sun)
5
When in Rome
Kristen Bell, Josh Duhamel
14.45-17.00-19.20-21.30 (00.15 Fri & Sat)
The Twilight Saga: Eclipse
Kristen Stewart, Robert Pattinson
13.30-16.10-18.50-21.30 Wed Only
6
Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang
Emma Thompson, Rhys Ifans
(10.50-13.15 Sat & Sun) 15.45-18.10
The Bad Lieutenant
Nicolas Cage, Eva Mendes
21.50 (00.40 Fri & Sat)
7
Sex and the City 2
Sarah Jessica Parker, Kristin Davis
15.00-18.10-21.10 (00.10 Fri & Sat)
8
Prince of Persia
Jake Gyllenhaal, Gemma Arterton
(11.20 Sat & Sun) 16.40
Desert Flower
Liya Kebede, Craig Parkinson
14.05-19.10-21.45 (00.20 Fri & Sat)
9
The Time Traveler's Wife
Rachel McAdams, Eric Bana
13.45-16.20-18.50-21.15 (23.55 Fri & Sat)
Urmel aus dem Eis - Animation PV
(10.40 Sat & Sun)

CASTELLO LOPES CINEMAS ALGARVESHOPPING TEL: 707 220 220

24 JUN-30 JUN

1
She's Out of My League
Jay Baruchel, Alice Eve
13.30-16.00-18.15-21.40 (23.55 Fri & Sat)
2
Toy Story 2: 3D - Animation PV
12.55-14.55-17.00-19.05-21.10 (23.30 Fri & Sat)
3
Marmaduke PV
Owen Wilson, Lee Pace
13.20-15.30-18.00
The Time Traveler's Wife
Rachel McAdams, Eric Bana
21.05 (23.35 Fri & Sat)
4
The Back-Up Plan
Jennifer Lopez, Alex O'Loughlin
13.25-16.10-18.50-21.45 (00.00 Fri & Sat)
5
Robin Hood
Russell Crowe, Cate Blanchett
12.50-15.40-18.25-21.15 (00.05 Fri & Sat)
6
Sex and the City 2
Sarah Jessica Parker, Kristin Davis
12.45-15.40-18.35-21.30 (00.25 Fri & Sat)
7
When in Rome
Kristen Bell, Josh Duhamel
13.05-15.10-17.15-19.20-21.35 (23.45 Fri & Sat)
8
Brooklyn's Finest
Richard Gere, Don Cheadle
13.00-15.45-18.35-21.20 (00.10 Fri & Sat)
The Twilight Saga: Eclipse
Kristen Stewart, Robert Pattinson
13.10-15.55-18.40-21.30 Wed Only
9
Prince of Persia
Jake Gyllenhaal, Gemma Arterton
13.15-15.50-18.20-21.00 (23.40 Fri & Sat)

CASTELLO LOPES CINEMAS PORTIMÃO TEL: 707 220 220

24 JUN-30 JUN

1
Sex and the City 2
Sarah Jessica Parker, Kristin Davis
12.40-15.30-18.20-21.10 (00.05 Fri & Sat)
The Twilight Saga: Eclipse
Kristen Stewart, Robert Pattinson
13.10-15.40-18.30-21.30 Wed Only
2
Prince of Persia
Jake Gyllenhaal, Gemma Arterton
13.10-15.40-18.30-21.30 (00.00 Fri & Sat)
3
Urmel aus dem Eis
Animation PV
13.00-15.00-17.10-19.20
Robin Hood
Russell Crowe, Cate Blanchett
21.20 (00.10 Fri & Sat)
4
Marmaduke PV
Owen Wilson, Lee Pace
12.50-14.50-17.00-19.10
A Nightmare on Elm Street
Jacki Earle Haley, Kellan Lutz
22.00 (00.20 Fri & Sat)
5
She's Out of My League
Jay Baruchel, Alice Eve
13.20-15.50-18.40-21.50 (00.15 Fri & Sat)
6
When in Rome
Kristen Bell, Josh Duhamel
13.30-16.00-18.50-21.40 (23.50 Fri & Sat)

Castello Lopes Cinemas
Tel: 707 220 220
www.castellolopescinemas.com

UCI Cinemas
Tel: 707 23 22 21
www.uciportugal.pt

Zon Lusomundo Cinemas
Tel: 707 24 63 62
www.zonlusomundo.pt

OV = Original Version
PV = Portuguese Version

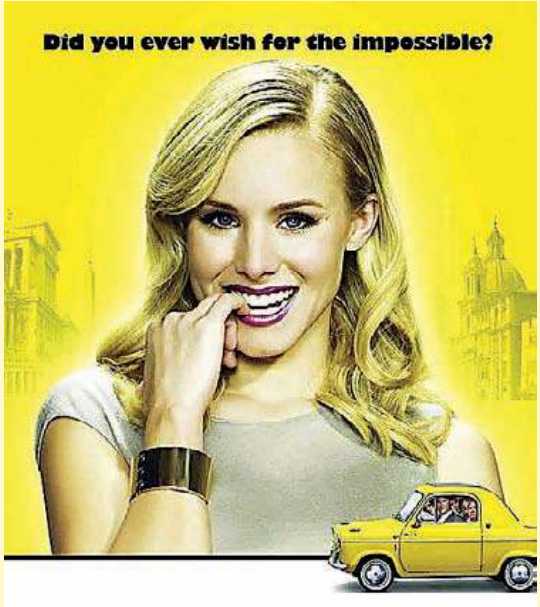
Film Classification

When in Rome - M/12
Brooklyn's Finest - M/12
Toy Story 2: 3D - M/6
Desert Flower - M/12
The Back-Up Plan - M/12
She's Out of My League - M/12
Marmaduke - M/12
The Time Traveler's Wife - M/12
Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang - M/6
Sex and the City 2 - M/16
Prince of Persia - M/12
How to Train Your Dragon - M/6

M/4 - Four years and over
M/6 - Six years and over
M/12 - 12 years and over
M/16 - 16 years and over
M/18 - 18 years and over

when IN ROME

Title: When in Rome
Genre: Comedy | Romance
Stars: Kristen Bell, Josh Duhamel, Anjelica Huston, Will Arnett
Director: Mark Steven Johnson
Synopsis: An ambitious young New Yorker, disillusioned with romance, takes a whirlwind trip to Rome where she defiantly plucks magic coins from a fountain of love, inexplicably igniting the passion of those who threw them in: a sausage magnate, a street magician, an adoring painter and a self-admiring model. But when a charming reporter pursues her with equal zest, how will she know if his love is the real thing?



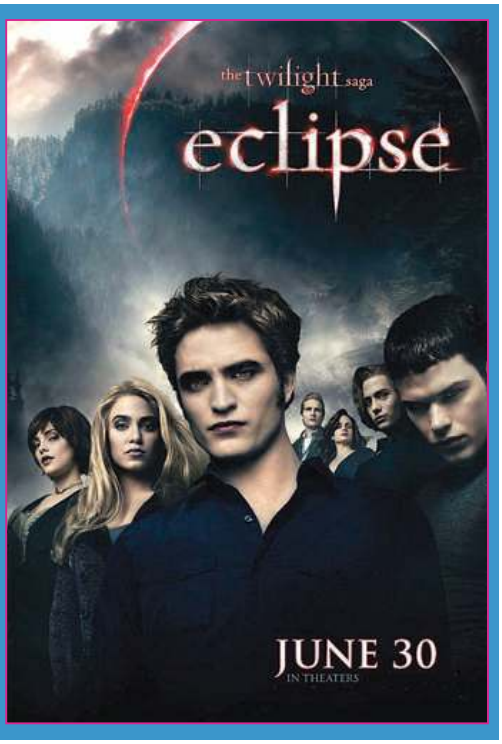
Title: Brooklyn's Finest
Genre: Action | Crime | Drama | Thriller
Stars: Richard Gere, Don Cheadle, Ethan Hawke, Wesley Snipes, Vincent D'Onofrio
Director: Antoine Fuqua
Synopsis: Burned out veteran Eddie Dugan is just one week away from his pension and a fishing cabin in Connecticut. Narcotics officer Sal Procida has discovered there's no line he won't cross to provide a better life for his long-suffering wife and seven children. And Clarence "Tango" Butler has been undercover so long his loyalties have started to shift from his fellow police officers to his prison buddy Caz, one of Brooklyn's most infamous drug dealers. With personal and work pressures bearing down on them, each man faces daily tests of judgment and honour in one of the world's most difficult jobs.

Opening Wednesday, June 30.

The Twilight Saga: Eclipse.

Starring Kristen Stewart, Robert Pattinson and Taylor Lautner. The new instalment in the world famous Twilight Saga movies based on the bestselling books by Stephenie Meyer.

More details on the movie, in next week's issue.



SATURDAY 26/06/10

BBC1

06.00 Yesterday at Wimbledon.
07.00 Breakfast.
10.00 Saturday Kitchen.
11.30 The Delicious Miss Dahl.
12.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.
12.10 Formula 1: The European Grand Prix - Qualifying.
14.30 Match of the Day Live: 2010 FIFA World Cup.
17.15 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.
17.35 Hole in the Wall.
18.05 Doctor Who.
19.00 Total Wipeout.
20.00 The National Lottery: In It to Win It 2012.
20.50 Casualty.
21.40 Live at the Apollo.
22.25 BBC News; Weather.
22.45 Match of the Day: 2010 FIFA World Cup;
23.45 **FILM**: Phantoms (1998).
01.15 Friday Night with Jonathan Ross; Weatherview.
02.20 BBC News.

BBC2

06.00 CBeebies.
07.00 CBBC.
12.00 Wimbledon 2010.
16.00 Live Athletics.
17.15 Wimbledon 2010.
20.00 Today at Wimbledon.
21.00 What Makes a Great Tenor?
22.00 Mock the Week.
22.30 Glastonbury 2010.
02.00 MotoGP.
03.00 **FILM**: Naqoyqatsi (2002)..

ITV1 London

05.30 ITV Morning News.
06.00 GMTV.
09.25 The Crocodile Hunter Diaries.
10.25 Children's Hospital.
10.55 Monk.
11.50 News and Weather.
11.59 London Weather.
12.00 This Morning: Saturday.
13.00 **FILM**: Columbo: Butterfly in Shades of Grey (1993).
15.00 Midsomer Murders.
17.00 Creature Comforts.
17.15 London Tonight; Weather.
17.30 ITV News and Weather.
17.45 You've Been Framed!
18.45 World Cup Live.
21.30 James Corden's World Cup Live.
22.00 ITV's Best Ever Ads 2.
23.00 ITV News and Weather; Weather.
23.15 **FILM**: Escape from New York (1981).
01.05 The Zone; ITV News Headlines.
03.10 October Road.
03.55 ITV Nightscreen.

Channel 4

06.30 Sali Mali.
06.35 The Hoobs.
07.00 World Sport.
07.30 The Grid.
08.00 The Morning Line.
08.55 T4: Friends.
09.25 T4: Friends.
09.50 T4: One Night Only: Video Exclusive.
09.55 T4: Big Brother.
10.55 T4: Big Brother.
11.30 T4: 4Music Favourites: Scissor Sisters.
12.00 T4: Friends.
12.30 T4: The Hollyoaks Music Show.
13.00 T4: Smallville.
13.55 Channel 4 Racing from Newcastle and Newmarket.
15.55 Come Dine with Me.
16.25 Come Dine with Me.
16.55 Come Dine with Me.
17.25 Come Dine with Me.
18.00 Come Dine with Me.
18.30 Channel 4 News.
19.00 The Great Escape: The Reckoning.
19.55 **FILM**: The Land Girls (1997).
22.00 Big Brother.
23.10 100 Greatest World Cup Moments of All Time.
02.10 Big Brother: Live.
03.40 What About Brian.
04.25 Demolition Day.
05.20 Countdown.

Five

06.00 Sunrise.
07.00 Milkshake!
10.00 Fifth Gear.
10.30 Daring Raids of World War Two.
11.00 The Great Escape: Revealed.
12.05 **FILM**: Rooster Cogburn (1975).
14.10 **FILM**: Atomic Train (1999).
17.00 **FILM**: Chisum (1970).
19.10 Five News.
19.15 NCIS.
20.05 CSI: NY.
21.00 CSI: Miami.
22.00 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation.
22.55 Law & Order.
23.55 Cops in Crisis.
00.15 SuperCasino.
04.05 European Seniors Tour Golf.
04.55 The Family Recipe.
05.00 Hana's Helpline.
05.10 The Milkshake! Show.
05.35 Thomas & Friends.
05.45 Roary the Racing Car.

THIS SUNDAY: Service of Holy Communion 6pm • Convento de S. José • LAGOA

Lead Priest : Fr. Joseph Wingo T: 309 402 783
Assistant Priest: Rev'd Jackie Nevill T: 914 781 453
Assistant Priest: Rev'd Paul Luckman T: 917 240 123
info@allsaintsalgarve.org • www.allsaintsalgarve.org
Please enquire about Baptism Services, Marriage Blessings, Funeral Services

SUNDAY 27/06/10

BBC1

06.00 Yesterday at Wimbledon.
07.00 MotoGP.
08.00 Breakfast.
09.00 The Andrew Marr Show.
10.00 The Big Questions.
11.00 The Politics Show; Weather for the Week Ahead.
12.10 Formula 1: The European Grand Prix Live.
14.45 Match of the Day Live: 2010 FIFA World Cup.
17.15 Priceless Antiques Roadshow.
17.45 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.
18.00 Countryfile.
19.00 Inside the Perfect Predator.
20.00 Antiques Roadshow.
21.00 Rock & Chips.
22.30 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.
22.55 Match of the Day: 2010 FIFA World Cup.
23.55 **FILM**: Iron Eagle (1986); Weatherview.
01.50 Sign Zone: Grow Your Own Drugs.
02.20 Sign Zone: Children's Emergency.
02.50 Sign Zone: Modern Masters.
03.50 BBC News.

BBC2

06.00 CBeebies.
07.00 CBBC.
10.00 Something for the Weekend.
11.30 EastEnders.
13.50 **FILM**: Tara Road (2005).
15.25 Flog It!
15.55 Coast.
16.00 Glastonbury 2010.
17.30 Live Athletics.
20.00 Top Gear.
21.00 How to Build a Nuclear Submarine.
22.00 Glastonbury 2010.
02.00 **FILM**: Song of Songs (2006).
03.20 BBC News.
04.00 The Super League Show.
05.00 Close.

ITV1 London

05.30 ITV Morning News.
06.00 GMTV.
09.25 The Planet's Funniest Animals.
10.00 Coronation Street.
11.00 This Morning: Sunday.
12.00 News and Weather.
12.14 London Weather.
12.15 **FILM**: Murder, She Wrote: The Celtic Riddle (2003).
14.00 **FILM**: Columbo: Strange Bedfellows (1995).
16.00 Agatha Christie's Poirot.
18.00 Ladies of Letters.
18.30 London Tonight; Weather.
18.45 ITV News and Weather.
19.00 World Cup Live.
21.30 James Corden's World Cup Live.
22.05 ITV News and Weather; Weather.
22.20 **FILM**: Wimbledon (2004).
00.10 Nightwatch with Steve Scott.
01.05 The Zone; ITV News Headlines.
02.30 Motorsport UK.
03.30 ITV Nightscreen.

Channel 4

06.05 The Hoobs.
06.30 The Hoobs.
06.55 Catching the Impossible.
07.50 Formula Ford Championship.
08.20 British Triathlon Grand Prix.
08.50 T4: The Hills.
09.20 T4: Friends.
09.50 T4: Hollyoaks.
12.20 T4: Big Brother's Little Brother.
13.20 T4: Being N-Dubz.
13.55 T4: Tinchy Stryder: Video Exclusive.
14.00 T4: The Simpsons.
14.25 T4: The Simpsons.
14.55 **FILM**: Carry On Up the Khyber (1968).
16.40 Deal or No Deal.
17.25 Scrapheap Challenge.
18.30 Channel 4 News.
19.00 River Cottage.
20.00 Come Dine with Me.
21.00 Big Brother.
22.00 Alan Carr: Chatty Man.
22.50 The IT Crowd.
23.25 **FILM**: Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan (1982).
01.35 Big Brother: Live.
04.55 Countdown.
05.40 Hill Street Blues.

Five

06.00 Sunrise.
07.00 Milkshake!
10.00 Shake!
11.10 Family Food Fight.
11.40 Chinese Food in Minutes.
12.15 Build a New Life in the Country.
13.15 **FILM**: East of Sudan (1964).
15.00 **FILM**: Mrs Winterbourne (1996).
17.00 **FILM**: Short Circuit 2 (1988).
19.10 Five News.
19.15 Cricket on Five.
20.00 **FILM**: Maid in Manhattan (2002).
22.10 **FILM**: The Sweetest Thing (2002).
23.45 Crimes That Shook the World.
00.50 SuperCasino.
04.05 Wildlife SOS.
04.30 Wildlife SOS.
04.55 The Family Recipe.
05.00 Hana's Helpline.
05.10 The Milkshake! Show.
05.35 Thomas & Friends.
05.45 Roary the Racing Car.

MONDAY 28/06/10

BBC1

06.00 Breakfast.
09.15 Crimewatch Roadshow.
10.00 Homes Under the Hammer; BBC News; Weather.
11.00 Cowboy Trap.
11.45 Cash in the Attic; BBC News; Weather.
12.15 Bargain Hunt.
13.00 BBC News; Weather.
13.30 Regional News; Weather.
13.45 Wimbledon 2010.
14.30 Match of the Day Live: 2010 FIFA World Cup.
17.15 Wimbledon 2010.
18.00 BBC News; Weather.
18.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather.
19.00 Jimmy's Food Factory - Second Helpings; BBC News; Regional News.
20.00 Life of Riley.
20.30 Panorama.
21.00 New Tricks.
22.00 BBC News.
22.25 Regional News; Weather.
22.35 The Graham Norton Show.
23.20 Match of the Day: 2010 FIFA World Cup; Springwatch Weatherview.
00.25 Sign Zone: The Genius of Design.
01.25 Sign Zone: Museum of Life.
02.25 Sign Zone: Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is.
03.25 BBC News.

BBC2

06.00 CBeebies.
07.00 CBBC.
08.30 CBeebies.
11.00 Animal Park.
11.30 Daily Politics.
12.00 Wimbledon 2010.
15.25 CBBC.
17.50 Wimbledon 2010.
20.00 Today at Wimbledon.
21.00 Mary, Queen of Shops.
22.00 Rev.
22.30 Newsnight; Weather.
23.20 Tribal Wives.
00.20 The Culture Show.
01.20 BBC News.
03.25 Close.

ITV1 London

05.30 ITV Morning News.
06.00 GMTV.
09.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show.
10.30 This Morning.
12.30 Loose Women.
13.30 ITV News and Weather.
13.55 London News and Weather.
14.00 Dickinson's Real Deal.
15.00 Midsomer Murders.
17.00 The Chase.
18.00 London Tonight; Weather.
18.30 ITV News and Weather.
19.00 World Cup Live.
21.30 James Corden's World Cup Live.
22.00 ITV News at Ten and Weather.
22.30 London News and Weather.
22.35 **FILM**: Exorcist: The Beginning (2004).
00.35 The Zone; ITV News Headlines.
02.45 The Jeremy Kyle Show.
03.40 ITV Nightscreen.

Channel 4

06.30 The Hoobs.
06.55 Big Brother's Little Brother.
07.50 Big Brother.
08.45 Lenny Henry's 5 O'Clock Show.
09.45 Deal or No Deal.
10.30 Everybody Loves Raymond.
11.00 Friends.
11.30 Friends.
12.00 Channel 4 News Summary.
12.05 The TV Book Club.
12.35 Will & Grace.
13.00 Come Dine with Me.
13.30 Come Dine with Me.
14.00 Come Dine with Me.
14.25 Come Dine with Me.
14.55 Come Dine with Me.
15.25 Countdown.
16.10 Deal or No Deal.
17.00 Melanie and Denise's 5 O'Clock Show.
18.00 The Simpsons.
18.30 Hollyoaks.
19.00 Channel 4 News.
20.00 The Secrets of Westminster Abbey: A Time Team Special.
21.00 The Untold Battle of Trafalgar.
22.00 Big Brother.
23.10 Music on 4: Being N-Dubz.
23.40 Alan Carr: Chatty Man.
00.30 Big Brother: Live.
04.30 **FILM**: The Common Touch (1941).

Five

06.00 Milkshake!
09.15 The Wright Stuff.
10.45 Trisha Goddard.
11.45 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation.
12.40 Five News.
12.45 Extreme Fishing with Robson Green.
13.45 Neighbours.
14.15 Home and Away.
14.50 Animal Rescue Squad.
15.05 **FILM**: Into Thin Air: Death on Everest (1997).
17.00 Five News; Weather.
17.30 Neighbours.
18.00 Home and Away.
18.25 Live from Studio Five.
19.30 How Do They Do It? Five News Update.
20.00 Police Interceptors; Five News at 9.
21.00 Extraordinary People: Seven New Faces in Seven Days.
22.00 Crimes That Shook the World.
23.00 **FILM**: Tequila Sunrise (1988).
01.10 SuperCasino.
04.05 Wildlife SOS.
04.55 County Secrets.
05.10 The New Tomorrow.
05.35 Michaela's Wild Challenge.

See our website for Events Calendar, History Pages, Property Search, Travel Page, Face book fan page and Twitter www.theportugalnews.com

TUESDAY 29/06/10

BBC1

06.00 Breakfast.
09.15 Crimewatch Roadshow.
10.00 Homes Under the Hammer; BBC News; Weather.
11.00 Cowboy Trap.
11.45 Cash in the Attic; BBC News; Weather.
12.15 Bargain Hunt.
13.00 BBC News; Weather.
13.30 Regional News; Weather.
13.45 Wimbledon 2010.
14.30 Match of the Day Live: 2010 FIFA World Cup.
17.15 Wimbledon 2010.
18.00 BBC News; Weather.
18.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather.
19.00 Real Rescues.
19.30 Holby City; BBC News; Regional News.
20.30 The Inspector Lynley Mysteries.
22.00 BBC News.
22.25 Regional News; Weather.
22.35 Imagine.
23.35 Match of the Day: 2010 FIFA World Cup.
00.35 The Graham Norton Show; Weatherview.
01.25 Sign Zone: Halcyon River Diaries.
02.25 Sign Zone: Raymond Blanc: Kitchen Secrets.
02.55 Sign Zone: Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is.
03.55 BBC News.

BBC2

06.00 CBeebies.
07.00 CBBC.
08.30 CBeebies.
10.30 Yesterday at Wimbledon.
11.30 Daily Politics.
12.00 Wimbledon 2010.
15.25 CBBC.
17.50 Wimbledon 2010.
20.00 Today at Wimbledon.
21.00 Tribal Wives.
22.00 Miranda.
22.30 Newsnight; Weather.
23.20 How to Build a Nuclear Submarine.
00.20 Gareth Malone Goes to Glyndebourne.
01.20 BBC News.
03.55 Close.

ITV1 London

05.30 ITV Morning News.
06.00 GMTV.
09.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show.
10.30 This Morning.
12.30 Loose Women.
13.30 ITV News and Weather.
13.55 London News and Weather.
14.00 Dickinson's Real Deal.
15.00 Midsomer Murders.
17.00 The Chase.
18.00 London Tonight; Weather.
18.30 ITV News
19.00 World Cup Live.
21.30 James Corden's World Cup Live.
22.00 ITV News at Ten and Weather.
22.30 London News and Weather.
22.35 TV's Naughtiest Blunders.
23.35 October Road.
00.30 The Zone; ITV News Headlines.
02.35 The Jeremy Kyle Show.
03.30 ITV Nightscreen.

Channel 4

06.15 The Hoobs.
06.40 Big Brother's Little Brother.
07.10 Big Brother.
08.20 Frasier.
08.45 Melanie and Denise's 5 O'Clock Show.
09.45 Deal or No Deal.
10.35 Everybody Loves Raymond.
11.00 Friends.
11.30 Friends.
12.00 Channel 4 News Summary.
12.05 Relocation, Relocation.
13.00 Come Dine with Me.
13.30 Come Dine with Me.
13.55 Come Dine with Me.
14.25 Come Dine with Me.
14.55 Come Dine with Me.
15.25 Countdown.
16.10 Deal or No Deal.
17.00 Melanie and Denise's 5 O'Clock Show.
18.00 The Simpsons.
18.30 Hollyoaks.
19.00 Channel 4 News.
20.00 Gok's Fashion Fix.
21.00 The Untold Battle of Britain.
22.00 Big Brother.
23.10 The Good Wife.
00.05 The Poker Lounge.
01.05 Big Brother: Live.
04.15 KOTV Boxing Weekly.
04.45 Superbike World Championship 2010.
05.10 Formula Ford Championship.
05.35 The Grid.
06.00 World Sport.

Five

06.00 Milkshake!
09.15 The Wright Stuff.
10.45 Trisha Goddard.
11.45 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation.
12.40 Five News.
12.45 Extreme Fishing with Robson Green.
13.45 Neighbours.
14.15 Home and Away.
14.50 The Family Recipe.
14.55 Animal Rescue Squad.
15.10 **FILM**: Hell on Heels: The Battle of Mary Kay (2002).
17.00 Five News; Weather.
17.30 Neighbours.
18.00 Home and Away.
18.25 Live from Studio Five.
19.30 Family Food Fight; Five News Update.
20.00 Build a New Life: Was It Worth It? Five News at 9.
21.00 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation.
22.00 CSI: Miami; Five News Update.
23.00 CSI: NY.
00.00 NCIS.
00.55 SuperCasino.
04.05 Wildlife SOS.
04.30 Wildlife SOS.
04.55 County Secrets.
05.10 The New Tomorrow.
05.35 Michaela's Wild Challenge.

WEDNESDAY 30/06/10

BBC1

06.00 Breakfast.
09.15 Crimewatch Roadshow.
10.00 Homes Under the Hammer; BBC News; Weather.
11.00 Cowboy Trap.
11.45 Cash in the Attic; BBC News; Weather.
12.15 Wimbledon 2010.
13.00 BBC News; Weather.
13.30 Regional News; Weather.
13.45 Wimbledon 2010.
18.00 BBC News; Weather.
18.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather.
19.00 A Question of Sport.
19.30 Rogue Traders; BBC News; Regional News.
20.00 EastEnders.
21.00 Reunited.
22.00 BBC News.
22.25 Regional News; Weather.
22.35 The National Lottery Draws.
22.45 The Bionic Vet.
23.15 **FILM**: Waking Up in Reno (2002); National Lottery Update and Weatherview.
00.45 Sign Zone: DIY SOS.
01.15 Sign Zone: Mary, Queen of Shops.
02.15 Sign Zone: The Delicious Miss Dahl.
02.45 Sign Zone: Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is.
03.45 BBC News.

BBC2

06.00 CBeebies.
07.00 CBBC.
08.00 CBeebies.
10.30 Yesterday at Wimbledon.
11.30 Daily Politics.
13.00 Wimbledon 2010.
15.25 CBBC.
17.50 Wimbledon 2010.
20.00 Today at Wimbledon.
21.00 Top Gear.
22.00 Mock the Week.
22.30 Newsnight; Weather.
23.20 Rev.
23.50 Are You Having a Laugh? TV and Disability.
00.50 BBC News.
03.50 Close.

ITV1 London

05.30 ITV Morning News.
06.00 GMTV.
09.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show.
10.30 This Morning.
12.30 Loose Women.
13.30 ITV News and Weather.
13.55 London News and Weather.
14.00 Dickinson's Real Deal.
15.00 Midsomer Murders.
17.00 The Chase.
18.00 London Tonight; Weather.
18.30 ITV News and Weather.
19.00 Emmerdale.
19.30 Lion Country.
20.00 Midsomer Murders.
22.00 ITV News at Ten and Weather.
22.30 London News and Weather.
22.35 World Cup Rock 'n' Goal Years.
23.05 **FILM**: Passenger 57 (1992).
00.40 The Zone; ITV News Headlines.
02.40 The Jeremy Kyle Show.
03.35 ITV Nightscreen.

Channel 4

06.30 The Hoobs.
06.55 Big Brother's Little Brother.
07.20 Big Brother.
08.30 Frasier.
08.55 Melanie and Denise's 5 O'Clock Show.
09.55 Deal or No Deal.
10.40 Everybody Loves Raymond.
11.05 Friends.
11.30 Friends.
12.00 Channel 4 News Summary.
12.05 Relocation, Relocation.
13.00 Come Dine with Me.
13.30 Come Dine with Me.
14.00 Come Dine with Me.
14.25 Come Dine with Me.
14.55 Come Dine with Me.
15.25 Countdown.
16.10 Deal or No Deal.
17.00 Melanie and Denise's 5 O'Clock Show.
18.00 The Simpsons.
18.30 Hollyoaks.
19.00 Channel 4 News.
20.00 The Untold Great Fire of London.
21.00 Big Brother.
22.00 Desperate Housewives.
23.00 The Big Bang Theory.
23.30 My Name Is Earl.
23.55 Music on 4: 4Music Favourites: Scissor Sisters.
00.30 Music on 4: The Album Chart Show Spotlight.
00.45 Music on 4: Mercury Prize Sessions.
01.00 Music on 4: 4Play: Karen Elson.
01.15 Big Brother: Live.
04.35 Beach Volleyball.
05.25 British Triathlon Grand Prix.
05.50 Countdown.

Five

06.00 Milkshake!
09.15 The Wright Stuff.
10.45 Trisha Goddard.
11.45 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation.
12.40 Five News.
12.45 Extreme Fishing with Robson Green.
13.45 Neighbours.
14.15 Home and Away.
14.50 Zoo Days.
14.55 Animal Rescue Squad.
15.10 **FILM**: Thicker Than Water (2005).
17.00 Five News; Weather.
17.30 Neighbours.
18.00 Home and Away.
18.25 Live from Studio Five.
19.30 Escape from Alcatraz; Five News Update.
20.00 The Titanic Conspiracy: The True Story; Five News at 9.
21.00 NCIS.
22.00 K-Ville.
22.55 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation.
23.55 Cricket on Five.
00.55 SuperCasino.
04.05 Wildlife SOS.
04.30 Wildlife SOS.
04.55 County Secrets.
05.10 The New Tomorrow.
05.35 Michaela's Wild Challenge.

THURSDAY 01/07/10

BBC1

06.00 Breakfast.
09.15 Crimewatch Roadshow.
10.00 Homes Under the Hammer; BBC News; Regional News.
11.00 Cowboy Trap.
11.45 Cash in the Attic; BBC News; Weather.
12.15 Bargain Hunt.
13.00 BBC News; Weather.
13.30 Regional News; Weather.
13.45 Wimbledon 2010.
18.00 BBC News; Weather.
18.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather.
19.00 Fake Britain.
19.30 EastEnders; BBC News; Regional News.
20.00 DIY SOS.
21.00 Holby City.
22.00 BBC News.
22.25 Regional News; Weather.
22.35 Question Time.
23.35 This Week; Holiday Weatherview.
00.25 Sign Zone: Countryfile.
01.25 Sign Zone: Cracking Antiques.
01.55 Sign Zone: Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is.
02.55 Sign Zone: Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is.
03.50 Sign Zone: Panorama.
04.20 BBC News.

BBC2

06.00 CBeebies.
07.00 CBBC.
08.30 CBeebies.
10.30 Yesterday at Wimbledon.
11.30 Daily Politics.
12.00 Animal Park.
12.30 Wimbledon 2010.
15.25 CBBC.
17.50 Wimbledon 2010.
20.00 Today at Wimbledon.
21.00 Gardeners' World Special.
22.00 Grumpy Old Men.
22.30 Newsnight; Weather.
23.00 Glastonbury 2010.
01.00 FILM: Babylon (1980).
02.35 Close.

ITV1 London

05.30 ITV Morning News.
06.00 GMTV.
09.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show.
10.30 This Morning.
12.30 Loose Women.
13.30 ITV News and Weather.
13.55 London News and Weather.
14.00 Dickinson's Real Deal.
15.00 Midsomer Murders.
17.00 The Chase.
18.00 London Tonight; Weather.
18.30 ITV News and Weather.
19.00 Emmerdale.
20.00 Coronation Street.
21.00 Homes from Hell.
22.00 ITV News at Ten and Weather.
22.30 London News and Weather.
22.35 World Cup Rock 'n' Goal Years.
23.05 Superhuman: Super Strong.
00.05 Grimefighters.
00.30 The Zone; ITV News Headlines.
02.35 The Jeremy Kyle Show.
03.35 How to Beat the Budget Airlines: Tonight.
03.55 ITV Nightscreen.

Channel 4

06.35 The Hoobs.
07.00 Big Brother's Little Brother.
07.30 Big Brother.
08.25 Frasier.
08.55 Melanie and Denise's 5 O'Clock Show.
09.55 Deal or No Deal.
10.40 Everybody Loves Raymond.
11.05 Friends.
11.30 Friends.
12.00 Channel 4 News Summary.
12.05 Relocation, Relocation.
13.00 Come Dine with Me.
13.30 Come Dine with Me.
14.00 Come Dine with Me.
14.25 Come Dine with Me.
14.55 Come Dine with Me.
15.25 Countdown.
16.10 Deal or No Deal.
17.00 Melanie and Denise's 5 O'Clock Show.
18.00 The Simpsons.
18.30 Hollyoaks.
19.00 Channel 4 News.
20.00 Location, Location, Location.
21.00 The Untold Invasion of Britain.
22.00 Big Brother.
23.15 Skins.
00.15 Dirty Sexy Money.
01.05 Big Brother: Live.
04.05 Unreported World.
04.30 3 Minute Wonder: A Motorway Story.
04.35 Win My Wage.
05.20 Countdown.

Five

06.00 Milkshake!
09.15 The Wright Stuff.
10.45 Trisha Goddard.
11.45 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation.
12.40 Five News.
12.45 Extreme Fishing with Robson Green.
13.45 Neighbours.
14.15 Home and Away.
14.50 Zoo Days.
14.55 Animal Rescue Squad.
15.10 **FILM**: Mystery Woman: Game Time (2005).
17.00 Five News; Weather.
17.30 Neighbours.
18.00 Home and Away.
18.25 Live from Studio Five.
19.30 Fifth Gear; Five News Update.
20.00 Oil Disaster: The Rig That Blew Up; Five News at 9.
21.00 **FILM**: Cleaner (2007).
22.50 Police Interceptors.
23.50 Cops in Crisis.
00.10 SuperCasino.
04.05 Red Bull Air Race Magazine Show.
04.55 County Secrets.
05.10 The New Tomorrow.
05.35 Michaela's Wild Challenge.

FRIDAY 02/07/10

BBC1

06.00 Breakfast.
09.15 Crimewatch Roadshow.
10.00 Homes Under the Hammer; BBC News; Weather.
11.00 Cowboy Trap.
11.45 Cash in the Attic; BBC News; Weather.
12.15 Bargain Hunt.
13.00 BBC News; Weather.
13.30 Regional News; Weather.
13.45 Wimbledon 2010.
14.30 Match of the Day Live: 2010 FIFA World Cup.
17.15 Wimbledon 2010.
18.00 BBC News; Weather.
18.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather.
19.00 Animal 24:7.
19.30 Nigel Slater's Simple Suppers; BBC News; Regional News.
20.00 Inspector George Gently.
21.30 Outnumbered.
22.00 BBC News.
22.25 Regional News; Weather.
22.35 Friday Night with Jonathan Ross.
23.35 The National Lottery Friday Night Draws.
23.45 Match of the Day: 2010 FIFA World Cup; Weatherview.
00.50 Sign Zone: An African Journey with Jonathan Dimbleby.
01.50 Sign Zone: Welcome to Lagos.
02.50 BBC News.

BBC2

06.00 CBeebies.
07.00 CBBC.
08.30 CBeebies.
10.30 Yesterday at Wimbledon.
11.30 Daily Politics.
12.00 Animal Park.
12.30 Wimbledon 2010.
15.25 CBBC.
17.50 Wimbledon 2010.
20.00 Today at Wimbledon.
23.55 Music on 4: The Album Chart Show: Kelis Special.
00.25 Music on 4: 4Play: Micachu.
00.45 Big Brother: Live.
04.00 This Week's 4Music Top 20.
05.50 Countdown.

Five

06.00 Milkshake!
09.15 The Wright Stuff.
10.45 Trisha Goddard.
11.45 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation.
12.40 Five News.
12.45 Extreme Fishing with Robson Green.
13.45 Neighbours.
14.15 Home and Away.
14.50 Animal Rescue Squad.
15.05 **FILM**: Life on Liberty Street (2004).
17.00 Five News; Weather.
17.30 Neighbours.
18.00 Home and Away.
18.25 Live from Studio Five.
19.30 **FILM**: Random Hearts (1999).
22.05 The Mentalist.
23.05 Grey's Anatomy.
00.05 SuperCasino.
04.05 Motorsport Mundial.
04.30 Nick's Quest.
04.55 County Secrets.
05.10 The New Tomorrow.
05.35 Michaela's Wild Challenge.
22.00 ITV News at Ten and Weather.
22.30 London News and Weather.
22.35 FILM: DOA: Dead or Alive (2006).
00.10 The Zone; ITV News Headlines.
02.25 Touching Evil.
03.10 ITV Nightscreen.

Channel 4

06.05 The Hoobs.
06.30 The Hoobs.
06.55 Big Brother's Little Brother.
07.20 Big Brother.
08.30 Frasier.
08.55 Melanie and Denise's 5 O'Clock Show.
09.55 Deal or No Deal.
10.40 Everybody Loves Raymond.
11.05 Friends.
11.35 Friends.
12.00 Channel 4 News Summary.
12.05 Relocation, Relocation.
13.00 Come Dine with Me.
13.30 Come Dine with Me.
14.00 Come Dine with Me.
14.25 Come Dine with Me.
14.55 Come Dine with Me.
15.25 Countdown.
16.10 Deal or No Deal.
17.00 Melanie and Denise's 5 O'Clock Show.
18.00 The Simpsons.
18.30 Hollyoaks.
19.00 Channel 4 News.
19.30 Unreported World.
20.00 A Place in the Sun: Home or Away.
21.00 Big Brother.
22.00 The IT Crowd.
22.35 Big Brother.
23.05 Stand Up for the Week.
23.55 Music on 4: The Album Chart Show: Kelis Special.
00.25 Music on 4: 4Play: Micachu.
00.45 Big Brother: Live.
04.00 This Week's 4Music Top 20.
05.50 Countdown.

Five

06.00 Milkshake!
09.15 The Wright Stuff.
10.45 Trisha Goddard.
11.45 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation.
12.40 Five News.
12.45 Extreme Fishing with Robson Green.
13.45 Neighbours.
14.15 Home and Away.
14.50 Animal Rescue Squad.
15.05 **FILM**: Life on Liberty Street (2004).
17.00 Five News; Weather.
17.30 Neighbours.
18.00 Home and Away.
18.25 Live from Studio Five.
19.30 **FILM**: Random Hearts (1999).
22.05 The Mentalist.
23.05 Grey's Anatomy.
00.05 SuperCasino.
04.05 Motorsport Mundial.
04.30 Nick's Quest.
04.55 County Secrets.
05.10 The New Tomorrow.
05.35 Michaela's Wild Challenge.

SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. Answers next week.

Easy

			1	8	7	3		
5	3						2	
				2		9		4
	1	3						
9			6	4	3			1
						4	9	
8		4		7				
	6						4	5
		7	2	6	4			

Medium

9	5						6	8
		8				9		
		1	6		8	5		
	9		2		5		4	
				4				
	8		9		7		2	
		5	3		1	2		
		2				6		
6	1						7	4

Hard

				8		4		5
	1				4			6
5						2		
	3			2	6			
		1		5		8		
			1	7			3	
		7						2
3			6				5	
9		4		1				

Last weeks solutions:

2	7	9	4	8	3	6	5	1
6	3	1	9	2	5	8	4	7
5	8	4	1	7	6	9	2	3
9	6	5	8	4	7	3	1	2
3	1	2	5	6	9	4	7	8
7	4	8	2	3	1	5	6	9
4	2	6	3	1	8	7	9	5
1	5	3	7	9	4	2	8	6
8	9	7	6	5	2	1	3	4

5	3	4	9	1	8	2	6	7
7	8	9	2	3	6	4	1	5
6	2	1	7	5	4	3	8	9
9	1	3	4	7	5	8	2	6
2	4	7	8	6	1	9	5	3
8	5	6	3	9	2	1	7	4
3	7	5	1	8	9	6	4	2
4	6	8	5	2	3	7	9	1
1	9	2	6	4	7	5	3	8

7	9	6	3	8	2	4	1	5
2	1	3	5	9	4	7	8	6
5	4	8	7	6	1	2	9	3
8	3	9	4	2	6	5	7	1
6	7	1	9	5	3	8	2	4
4	2	5	1	7	8	6	3	9
1	6	7	8	3	5	9	4	2
3	8	2	6	4	9	1	5	7
9	5	4	2	1	7	3	6	8

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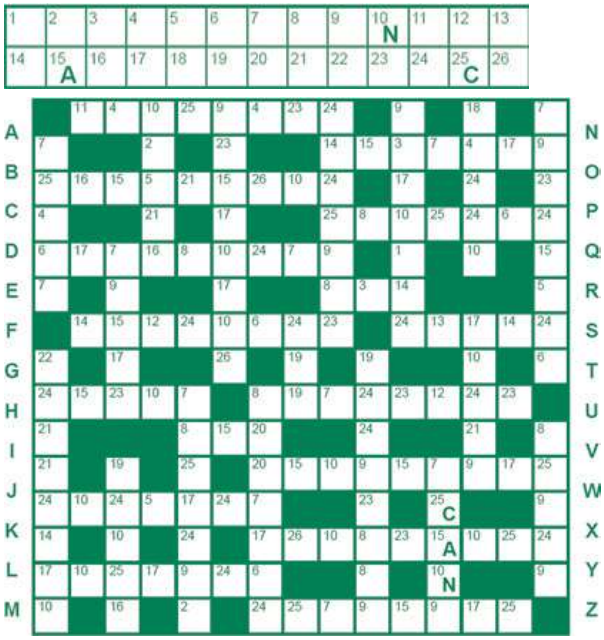
Enter the PRIZE CROSSWORD and win a FREE PC Clean-up in our workshop in Lagoa

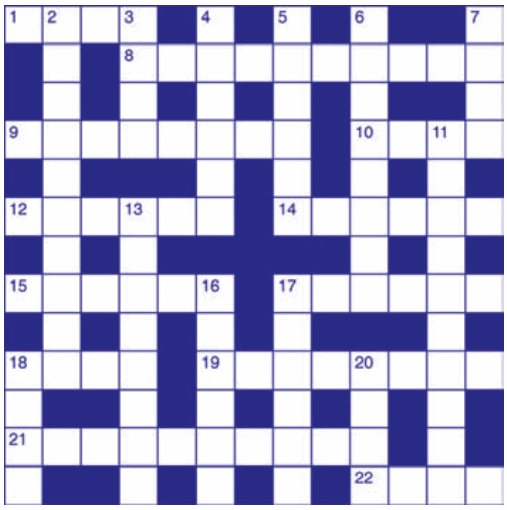
CODEWORD

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. Decipher the code to fill in the crossword. Three letters are already in place and the check-box and letters either side will help you keep track of progress.

(Right: Last week's solution)



PRIZE CROSSWORD 1067



ACROSS

1. Partly open (4)
8. Wipe out (10)
9. Unblemished (8)
10. Target (4)
12. Vestiges (6)
14. Make different (6)
15. Less bright (6)
17. Tie up (6)
18. Have on (4)
19. Intrepid (8)
21. Ownership (10)
22. Retain (4)

DOWN

2. Endanger (10)
3. Rave (4)
4. If not (6)
5. Medicine (6)
6. Glaring (8)
7. Small duck (4)
11. Pugnacious (10)
13. Condense (8)
16. Deny (6)
17. Sad (6)
18. Mop (4)
20. Thin (4)

A free computer clean-up will be awarded to the sender of the first correct solution to crossword nº 1067 opened next Thursday. Solutions to: The Portugal News Crossword Nº 1067, Apt. 13, 8401-901 Lagoa. Be sure to enclose your name, address and phone number.

WORDSEARCH

Find the hidden words within the square. The word may start anywhere and go in any direction.

N	I	H	T	N	Q	V	Y	P	E	S	Q	N	C	M
H	I	H	E	Z	B	R	S	O	F	M	N	G	S	D
U	S	K	C	S	R	A	E	P	S	Y	O	V	G	H
S	T	A	R	T	V	G	V	I	X	L	I	T	M	E
Z	O	O	S	N	A	E	A	M	V	C	T	V	L	D
T	L	P	O	T	L	W	T	Y	O	F	I	M	E	U
L	O	Z	R	T	E	U	S	U	J	S	S	P	T	C
J	N	O	T	V	Y	S	P	B	W	V	O	A	U	A
N	H	I	B	E	H	O	S	O	J	B	P	E	N	T
S	N	S	U	O	N	E	V	A	R	H	P	R	I	O
U	R	L	Y	R	Z	B	E	R	I	S	O	L	M	R
M	V	P	A	N	S	D	F	D	W	X	S	K	S	A
S	D	R	A	W	A	U	I	I	N	N	G	F	Q	H
S	E	E	D	E	D	I	S	T	H	G	I	N	S	B
T	O	U	R	R	E	T	T	U	C	K	Q	Q	S	I

UNIT, OPPOSITION, SHORTAGE, REAP, AWARDS, STOLON, STAVES, CUTTER, THIN, EDUCATOR, MINUTE, SIDE, NIGHT, WATCH, TOUR, SPEARS, ASSETS, START, SNAP, BOARD, RAVENOUS, SEEDED, COUPON, TOME, ASKS

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

See if you can find 6 differences between the two photos.

Last week's solutions

Across: 7 Raise; 8 Trivial; 9 Scarlet; 10 Poise; 12 Motherhood; 15 Obliterate; 18 Stray; 19 Antonym; 21 Intense; 22 Clean.

Down: 1 Prosperous; 2 Vital; 3 Heal; 4 Stitch; 5 Dispirit; 6 Visitor; 11 Endearment; 13 Outlying; 14 Clarity; 16 Roamer; 17 Enter; 20 Tuck.

Last weeks winner: David Hughes, Alvor

Last week's solution:

PROPERTY

A weekly guide to the latest and the best properties on the market in Portugal • The *Portugal* News • 26 Jun 2010

PROPERTY OF THE WEEK

Wonderful three bedroom villa

This week's featured property is located in Boliqueime, just minutes away from Vilamoura and numerous amenities. The spacious house is complemented by gorgeous private gardens and an exquisite swimming pool.

This outstanding quality three bedroom, spacious, secluded villa possesses its own private swimming pool, mature tropical gardens and is just minutes away from the sporting resort of Vilamoura, which boasts a large marina, international cuisine, many bars and shops to suit anyone's tastes, golf courses, cycling trails, fishing & cruise trips and tennis courts. A place for everyone.

The 310m² villa is built within 1400m² of wonderfully maintained tropical private gardens, with a large salt water swimming pool making it an ideal property.

The villa is very spacious and has a lot of natural light throughout, offering air conditioning for the warm Algarve summer days, central heating for the cooler months, double glazing, security shutters and an alarm system.

The villa is currently being used for rental and has a wonderful income for anyone looking for a rental investment, the price presently stands at €698,000 but the owner is open to a substantial offer.

It's certainly a place worth thinking about and if you would like further information and photos please contact Urbinvest. Alternatively you can visit their site www.urbinvest.net.

Ref nº 1680.

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Santa Catarina
- Large traditional cottage
- Main cottage 1 bedroom
- Annex cottage 2 beds
- Plunge pool & terraces
- Garden & barbecue
- Cott 275m² plot 2.372m²

Ref. C1198
Price: € 280.000

São Brás de Alportel
- Potential to increase
- Basement/extra rooms
- or separate apartment
- 3 bedrooms 1 bathroom
- Approval for pool 10x5
- Villa 224m² plot 1.650m²

Ref. V1181 - **"Quick Sale"**
Price Reduced: € 229.000

Almancil, Fonte Santa
- End-terrace townhouse
- Excellent urbanization
- Views to coast, V. do Lobo
- 2 bedrooms 2 bathrooms
- Lovely garden, terrace
- Villa 215m² plot 600m²

Ref. V1232
Price Reduced: € 245.000

Tavira
- Lovely property, sea view
- Ideal holiday rental bus.
- 4 separate aptms/cottage
- 6 bedrooms 6 bathrooms
- Pool, gardens, garage
- Bldgs 644m² plot 5.380m²

Ref. V1359
Price: € 750.000

Moncarapacho
- Beautiful villa with pool
- Spectacular ocean views
- 3 bedrooms 2 bathrooms
- Barbecue area, terraces
- Carport, lovely gardens
- Villa 120m² plot 3.000m²

Ref. V1360
Price: € 480.000

VILAGENTE

VENDAVILLA VILLAGENT

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AMI 489

Edifício do Cinema, Loja 3,
Vilamoura,
8125-432 Quarteira
Mobile: 918 788 375
Tel: 289 314 486
Fax: 289 315 578
vilagente@mail.telepac.pt
www.vendavilla.com

Ferreiras
Country 3 bedroom villa composed of 3 bathrooms, lounge with fireplace, equipped kitchen and terraces. Parking area and garden with swimming pool. Plot area of 1.300 sq.m. Construction area of 130 sq.m.

Ref: V12618 Price: € 299.000,00

Boliqueime
Country villa with a beautiful sea view, composed of 3 bedrooms (1 en suite), 2 bathrooms, lounge with fireplace, dining room, kitchen, storage room and laundry room. Garage, swimming pool and garden. Construction area of approximately 185 sq.m.
Ref: V12458 Price: € 300.000,00

Moncarapacho
Beautiful villa composed of 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, lounge with fireplace, 1 kitchen / 1 kitchenette, garage for 2 cars, swimming pool and garden. Air conditioning, Partly furnished and equipped. Plot area of approximately 7.800 sq.m. Quiet area.
Ref: V12350 Price: € 430.000,00

Vilamoura
Beautiful villa situated in front of the Golf Course, composed of 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, lounge w/ fireplace, dining room, kitchen, storage, laundry room & terraces. Garage, swimming pool & garden. Plot area of approx. 614 sq. m. Construction area of approx. 151 sq. m.
Ref: V12480 Price: € 500.000,00

kasas
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Robert@AlgarveProperty.com
www.AlgarveProperty.com

Robert Kootstra
your professional real estate consultant
Gov. Lic. AMI 2196

PICOTA
TC102729
Investment opportunity! Unique plot w/ 4.690 sq.m. excellently located on a very quiet and peaceful area. Only 15 min.drive from Vilamoura. Excellent access on tarmac road. Project approved to build a four bedroom detached villa with basement and swimming pool. Villa with approx. 732 sq. m. of constructed area. Stunning panoramic sea and country views.

Price: € 400.000,00

VILAMOURA - MARINA
A71905
Exclusive apartment excellently located in the Marina of Vilamoura. Closed complex with reception, restaurant, bar, two swimming pools and tennis court. Constructed area of 80 sq.m. Furnished and equipped. Air conditioning. Completely refurbished. Underground parking space for one car. Absolutely fabulous panoramic views of the Marina, sea and country.

Price: € 290.000,00

BOLIQUEIME
Ref. V102721
Magnificent 3 bedroom detached villa w/ fabulous panoramic sea & country views on very quiet & peaceful area.3/4 mins drive from Boliqueime. 1.800 sq.m. plot w/ 218 sq.m. constr. area. Recently refurbished. 2 en suite bedrooms. Living room w/ fireplace & electric heating. Office nr master bedroom. Fully fitted & equipped kitchen. A/c. Borehole. South facing low maintenance garden with a lovely swimming pool and barbecue area.

Price: € 595.000,00

VILAMOURA
A102736
One bedroom apartment in a gated complex with large green areas, swimming pool and tennis court. Adjacent to the Pinhal Golf Course and the Hilton Hotel & Spa. Approx. 15 minute walk to the Marina and beach. Constructed area of 58 sq.m. Fully furnished and equipped. Living room with open fireplace. South facing terrace overlooking garden and pool area. Private parking space for one car.

Price: € 120.000,00

RE/MAX Smart

RE/MAX smart AMI 7433

Do you want to buy or sell a property?
Contact me: Paulo Caqueiro
Telm.: (+351) 962 191 421
pcaqueiro@remax.pt
I speak: Portuguese, English and Norwegian
Remax Smart - Boliqueime

Balaia Golf Village
Magnificent 1 bedroom apartment, in the privat condominium Balaia Golf Village in Albufeira. Gardens, swimming pools, tennis courts and a golf course all in the same condominium. A few minutes from the beach. Feel the difference, BOOK YOUR VISIT!
Ref.: 122261080-14
Price: € 900 month (Long term rental)

Olhos D'Água – Surfal
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Ref: 1991 Price: € 440,000

Olhão
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Ref. 1990 Price: € 45,000

Quelfes
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Ref: 1987 Price reduced: € 315,000

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Ref : 717 Reduced price - € 160.000
Two bedroom ground floor apartment with a private patio area in a closed condominium with a pool and garage, very close to the beach in Cabanas. The front of the apartment faces the pool area. This is a great condominium as there are only five apartments sharing the pool. All apartments have a fitted kitchen which is open plan to the lounge.

Ref : 1014 New instruction - € 180.000
Three bed house on a small closed condominium, Private parking space in front of the house. On the ground floor you have the living room, equipped kitchen, with access to the sunny patio area, 2 bedrooms on ground floor and one bathroom then on first floor one bedroom and bathroom.

Ref : 974 Reduced price - € 220.000
A three bedroom house with garage, the lounge has a fireplace, large patio with BBQ, space for pool.Equipped kitchen. Master has large terrace with ocean view and ensuite shower room. The town of Cacela is only 5 minutes on foot which boasts shops, restaurants, a large market, train station, chemist, post office and schools.

Ref : 1017 On the beach - € 395.000
Fantastic semi detached fully furnished house on the dunes of Praia da Lota, wonderful beach just 2 mins on foot. Unlimited views of the ocean. Extensive garden areas w/ very large private pool and BBQ area. large lounge with fireplace, fully equipped kitchen, three double bedrooms, three baths, central vacuum system, air conditioning.

Ref : 1016 Detached - € 475.000
Fully furnished beautiful villa in a quiet village just 5 mins drive from the beach, huge fully equipped kitchen dining room, office, laundry room, generous lounge with open fireplace, 4 double bedrooms, 2 of which have en-suite bathrooms, all with fitted wardrobes. The house is surrounded by garden, patio areas and has large private pool, air conditioning, central heating and satellite television.

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Behind the scenes of the BBC's Gardeners' Question Time

Italian Cypress (Cupressus sempervirens)

Fans of the BBC's recent Gardeners' World Live show maybe interested to take a glimpse behind the scenes.

Alan Titchmarsh, Monty Don, Toby Buckland, Carol Klein, Joe Swift and Alys Fowler appeared at the show held at Birmingham's NEC, where the event was recorded for two programmes.

The popular radio show, which is aired on Fridays and Sundays, attracts two million listeners each week - television's BBC Gardeners' World has the same number of viewers - and its influence on horticultural spending habits is immeasurable.

But just how prepared are the panellists for the onslaught of questions that they get?

For the first 47 years the team were shown the questions in advance, but that tradition was dropped in 1994. Nowadays being a panel member is not for the faint-hearted but for those with a depth of gardening knowledge and an incisive grasp of a question.

Regular panellist Anne Swithinbank says: "We don't get to see the questions ahead of the recording, but they are screened and selected by the producer and chairman. If they weren't, I suspect it would be how to cope with slugs and snails, how to get rid of ground elder and how to prune wisteria every week.

"We are often asked to recommend plants for specific sites and another common one is why some plants refuse to flower for their owners. We get asked a lot of questions about grape vines, figs and strangely, rhubarb."

Chairman Eric Robson adds: "The most common problems are slugs, snails and the getting rid of them. Female panellists always have the most gruesome methods of killing and disposing of them."

They've also been faced with some extremely unusual questions over the years. Swithinbank recalls being asked: 'If I was a tree, what sort would it be and why? And what trees would the other panellists be?'

"I said: 'I suspect I'm more like a spreading shrub with rather jolly flowers, but wishfully thinking, would like to be a tree of heaven - sort of heavenly but rather high maintenance (this tree puts out suckers). Or a pencil-thin Italian Cypress (Cupressus sempervirens)'."

Robson recalls the panel being asked about the effectiveness of grow-lights. "Unfortunately, the questioner was a prison inmate (we were recording at Leyhill Open Prison at the time) and he wasn't interested in growing cucumbers!"

Fellow panellist Matthew Biggs adds that often the last questions are humorous. He was once asked, 'What would you save from your burning shed?'

All agree that, however, much gardening knowledge they have, they still get nervous before a live show. Robson says: "Even after 16 years in the chair the adrenaline runs before each show. After all it's a big responsibility chairing one of the longest running broadcast programmes in the world - 63 years and still going strong.

"As the then controller of Radio 4 said to me when I took over, 'You realise this isn't just a job. We're actually handing you the keys to middle England'."

Hannah Stephenson

From plot to plate - creating an espalier

Espaliers are trees which allow top fruits such as apples or pears to be trained in narrow beds or beside paths, with single upright main stems and pairs of straight horizontal branches, or arms, arranged in tiers. (See right)

Start by planting a maiden tree against wires stretched horizontally at 60cm intervals. After planting, cut the main stem back to a bud just above the lowest wire.

In the first year three shoots will grow out - two of these should be trained horizontally and the third vertically. Any other shoots should be rubbed off while they're still green. During winter, cut back the main stem to just above the second wire to form the second tier.

The following summer, do the same with the second tier as you did with the first. Prune the branches of the first tier in late summer, cutting back the side shoots to 7.5cm. Keep repeating the process until the espalier is the required height.

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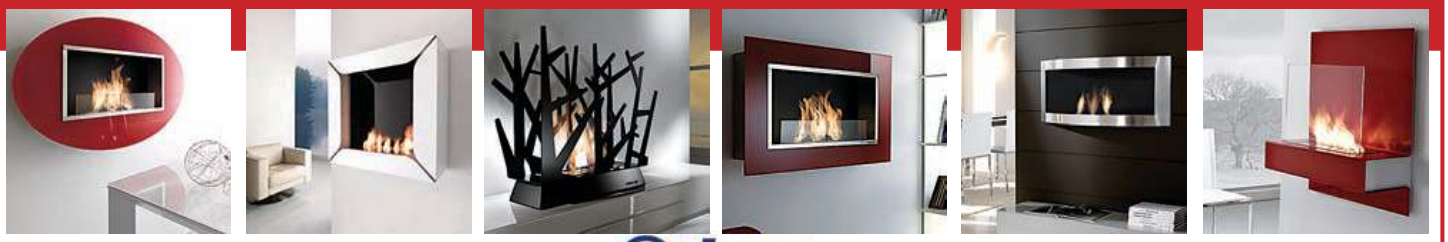

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Nissan Leaf: Zero emmisions

The latest set of wheels are taken for a spin. This week: Nissan Leaf.

The future of motoring starts here - at least one possible future. The Nissan Leaf is the first mass-produced electric car to go on sale in Portugal, and although it's still six months away from being released, sales are beginning from as early as July in Portugal. There are electric cars you can go out and buy now, but they are either conversions of existing combustion-powered cars or odd little plastic machines that few would classify as a proper car.

The Leaf is different because it was designed from the outset to be an electric car, and it will be built in sufficient numbers that you will be able to go out and buy one rather than lease it. Its appearance therefore might come as something of a surprise: with no lump of a petrol engine under the bonnet nor a complicated drivetrain, the packaging restraints of a regular car no longer apply. Nissan says they wanted to make the Leaf acceptable to conservative buyers rather than being radical in its packaging and design.

It's still distinctive however with a soft, organic shape which certainly reflects its status in the automotive hierarchy: this is a car at the opposite end of the scale from an aggressively-styled supercar. If you're buying into the idea of the Leaf, then its calming and unfussy demeanour makes perfect sense. It makes sense that a car that is kinder to the environment in terms of emissions has a kinder face too.

The same intentions are clearly delivered on the inside too. It's unlikely you'll see a friendlier or welcoming cabin for less than €60,000, as the Leaf majors on gentle curves and much lighter colours than in most modern cars. All the dashboard information is illuminated in a calming blue, with a comprehensive display covering all the car's vital functions.

The key to the whole system is the connected navigation system, which links remotely to a global data centre to provide guidance, charging information and diagnostics. Programme your destination into the navigation and if your route is longer than or close to the remaining range, the system will highlight charging points along the way.

Better still, the car connects with your mobile phone, allowing you to pre-set the cabin temperature before disconnecting from a charge (hence saving battery usage), programme an overnight charge to start when the cheapest electricity rate begins and the Leaf will even notify you if its charge is complete. What these features do is help to reduce the phenomenon of 'range-anxiety', and allow you to use the car as flexibly as its design will allow.

And how flexible is that? Well what sets the Leaf apart is the novel cell design, using lithium-ion batteries like those found in mobile phones. Being long and thin means they can be mounted under the seats and the floor of the Leaf, putting all the mass in the best place as well as minimising the impact on cabin space. With a full charge, the Leaf is capable of 160kms, with a top speed of over 145 km/h and rapid acceleration to match. A 160 kilometre range is around a third as much as a conventional petrol engine, but Nissan expect battery improvements to extend this in time.

More importantly however, a great percentage of the Portuguese population travels less than 50 kilometres a day - comfortably allowing the Leaf to cover a return commute even without a charge in the middle. Nissan expects most users to charge overnight to utilise cheaper tariffs. However, dedicated high-power charging points will be able to deliver an 80% charge in just 30 minutes.

Of course, public acceptance will be much more restricted if the driving experience isn't up to scratch. But after a brief drive, the Leaf demonstrates a number of attributes that will make it an appealing prospect in its own right. For starters, the electric motor delivers 280 Nm of torque from zero rpm, so plant your right foot from rest and the Leaf zooms forward with real vim. There are no steps in the transmission either, so the acceleration doesn't let up.

The weight distribution helps in the corners too, for although the Leaf fits into the small family hatch template, turn into a corner with vigour and it stays largely flat and roll-free. The other huge boon with electric power is noise: there's a faint whirr from beneath as the motor and drivetrain do their thing, but even at speed it amounts to nothing more than a background hum.

Finally there's the bottom line. New technology costs money, and Leaf will be the first full-scale production electric car you can buy in Portugal when it goes on sale in December 2010. The initial price tag is just under €35,000, but the government is offering a €5,000 refund incentive on pure electric vehicles, for which the Leaf qualifies. So that means a sticker price of €29,955, which can be reduced by a further €1,500 if car owners scrap their previous car. Portuguese customers owning the Nissan LEAF will also benefit from road tax exemption.

Yet the environmental savings could be worth so much more.

Source: PA/TPN

Model: Nissan Leaf €29,955 (after Government incentive)
Engine: AC electric motor delivering 107 bhp and 280 Nm of torque.
Performance: Top speed: 145 kph, 0-100kph: 10 seconds.
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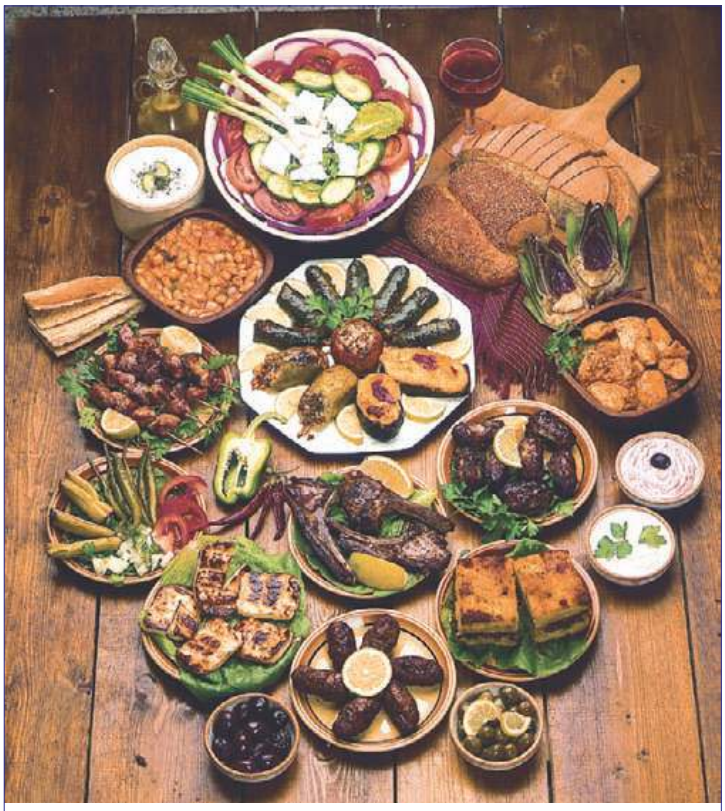

A traditional Cypriot meze.

For years, Portugal and Spain have enjoyed something of a monopoly for the finest golfing destinations in the Mediterranean, but they may be about to face quite a challenge from Cyprus.

When it comes to golf, Cyprus is the new kid on the block - it only boasts three courses, but there are ambitious plans for another 14 in the next few years to turn the island into another golfer's paradise.

If the impressive courses at Aphrodite Hills, Secret Valley and Minthis Hills are anything to go by, Cyprus is well on its way to becoming a utopia for golfers of all abilities.

I teed off my experience at the opulent surroundings of the Aphrodite Hills Resort, a fabulous five-star development in a plateau overlooking Petra tou Romiou, the legendary birthplace of Aphrodite, the goddess of love.

This five-star resort oozes elegance, with many of its 290 rooms and suites fit for a king, but it also boasts an 18-hole championship golf course, designed by Cabell Robinson, Europe's leading course architect.

It's spectacular, but for 150 euros a round, you expect something special! Built on a mountain, it is separated by a dramatic ravine, so buggies are essential to complete the course in a day.

The drive from second green to third tee is about a kilometre in itself, but this is nothing compared to the perilous, rollercoaster-style descent to the seventh.

You drive your cart down narrow twists and turns, daring not to take your eyes off the road ahead, to reach a glorious tee shot over a 160 metre gorge towards a luscious green surrounded by olive and carob trees.

The next hole is again impressive, with the massive eighth green seeming to teeter on the edge of the Mediterranean. Every hole is an event in itself, and is a fantastic experience.

Aphrodite Hills has plenty for golf widows and families too: It also features a first-class tennis academy, a beach club, and a multi-purpose sports court for children with anything from volleyball to mini-football.

The surrounding region of Paphos is steeped in local history and culture too: Taste the local vintage at a nearby winery and wine museum, or try your handiwork at workshops which turn out traditional Cypriot clay pots.

Completing our rounds in near darkness, we headed back to base, the five-star Columbia Beach Resort in the picturesque coastal village of Pissouri, for a traditional Cypriot meze, a constant supply of small dishes of meat and fish, including delicious barbecued octopus, all cooked to perfection.

Smaller than Aphrodite Hills resort, the Columbia is equally luxurious.

With elegant suites around the main pool, a stone's throw from the sea, this hotel is rightly regarded as one of the best in the region. After a day's golf, what better way to relax than in the hotel's spa, with highly-trained therapists on hand to massage aches and strains away?

Next up was Secret Valley Golf Club, a short drive from Aphrodite Hills, and a course within a colourful, picturesque valley. An 'easier' proposition than the previous day, but hardly one to be taken lightly.

The course has a stunning new clubhouse, redeveloped in 2006, and manager Stelios Patsalides summed up the course perfectly: "The views of the surroundings combined with the design efforts create a unique and memorable golfing experience."

Quite right. Although less glamorous, Secret Valley still had an air of grandeur, in the setting of a natural amphitheatre with the hills looming up to create a bowl.

It felt the most 'British' of the three - and the rain we encountered made us feel decidedly British too.

While we got drenched by a heavy downpour - rare in these parts, but welcome for the rain-starved country - this was Cyprus, so we were soon dry and the round completed in bright sunshine.

We then moved up the road to Paphos, a city festooned in history and an archaeology lover's delight, whether it be the immaculately preserved mosaics at the House of Dionysus near the popular harbour, or the World Heritage site of the Tombs of the Kings.

Our home for the next couple of nights was the impressive Almyra Hotel, the first-ever hotel built in Paphos in 1972. Originally the Paphos Beach Hotel, it was re-named Almyra after a huge renovation in 2003.

A very modern-feeling complex, the hotel offers the ultimate in 'resort chic' and our Aethon Sea View rooms resembled mini-villas with a balcony overlooking the sea. We lived like kings for two days.

One of the main selling points of the Almyra is the Almyra Spa, which promises "to create a holistic approach through health, beauty and fitness".

With luxury treatments ranging from Fragrant Flower Rituals to Mountain Herb Retreats, the Spa provides a pampering to ease any painful memories of poor shots on the fairways.

Our final golfing destination was Minthis Hills near the village of Tsada, just 15km north-east of Paphos, another venue of breathtaking beauty.

Built in 1994 by Donald Steel, the course underwent massive renovation before reopening in June 2007. A new clubhouse is under construction.

The club's temporary base, a ramshackle-style building, might lack the 'wow factor', but the course has that in spades. Afterwards, the clubhouse restaurant served a cracking mixed grill.

At an altitude of 550 metres above sea level and with meandering hills all around, Minthis provides a stunning vista of the Cypriot countryside and offers a really challenging 18 holes.

Stand-out hole is the 14th right on the edge of the course, where the tee has been cut out of the side

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of a hill, with a drive over a valley of out-of-bounds shrubbery and olive trees, with ominous perils awaiting those brave enough to have a blast at the hole perched above the valley, some 250 metres away.

Just enjoying the beautiful Cypriot sunshine and countryside was a delight in itself, but to do it while playing a round was pure heaven.

If you're seeking a new challenge, Cyprus is definitely the place to take your clubs too. And make it snappy before the secret's out about a new golfing paradise.

The Aphrodite Hills Resort, Cyprus.

Key facts

:: Best for: Year-round sun and three fine courses.

:: Time to go: Spring and early autumn - it's not too hot and island is in bloom.

:: Don't miss: Tombs of Kings, Paphos, a World Heritage site.

:: Need to know: They drive on the left in Cyprus, so driving is no problem.

:: Don't forget: To go native for traditional Cypriot meze.

Travel facts

Dominic was a guest of the Cyprus Tourism Organisation and flew Cyprus Airways which offers return flights ex-London, Manchester and Birmingham. Reservations: tel. 00 44 (0)20 8359 1333 and at: www.cyprusair.com.

Operators to Aphrodite Hills Resort include Olympic Holidays, which offers seven-nights' half-board from £900/€1,077 with return flights ex-Gatwick, including transfers.

On same day, a similar deal, also at £900/€1,077, is available ex-Manchester, and same offer of free upgrade to half-board accom applies ex-Birmingham from June 16 from £929/€1,112. Regional deps, at supp, also available from East Midlands, Leeds Bradford, Newcastle, Bristol and Bournemouth.

Olympic Holidays reservations: 00 44 (0)844 576 2386 and www.OlympicHolidays.com.

Further resort information: www.aphroditehills.com.

Destination enquiries: Cyprus Tourism Organization, tel. 00 44 (0)20 7569 8800 and at: www.visitcyprus.com.

Columbia Beach Resort Pissouri (see their website: www.columbia-hotels.com) operates free shuttle bus to the golf courses. Junior garden view suites start at €195 per night.

Almyra Hotel (see their website: www.almyra.com) has garden view rooms from €160 per room per night.

Details of Secret Valley and Minthis Hills courses available at: www.cyprusgolf.com.

Dominic Picksley

The Paphos Castle, Paphos, Cyprus.

The Retreat Spa at Aphrodite Hills Resort, Cyprus.

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Reservists taking part in a specialised training session at the Army Medical Services Training Centre at Strensall, near York.

Tending British wounded soldiers

The terrible injuries sustained by British soldiers in Afghanistan are often treated by Reservists who leave their medical jobs in the UK to temporarily work in field hospitals in the war zone. Lisa Salmon speaks to Reservists currently being trained about what they'll be doing in Afghanistan, and to the medical trainers who know exactly what these men and women will have to deal with as they help the wounded.

Nurse Tracey Heath spends a huge chunk of her spare time training to treat the sick and injured at a hospital in the middle of the desert.

But bosses at the Royal Oldham Hospital, where she works, don't mind that she's planning to look after patients elsewhere.

For the hospital she's training to work for is at Camp Bastion, the British military base in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, where Territorial Army (TA) medic Heath will soon be deployed.

She's part of the 207 Field Hospital medical team whose members will temporarily leave their civilian day jobs in UK hospitals, medical practices and laboratories to take control of the £10 million (nearly €12 million) state-of-the-art hospital at Bastion for three months later this year.

The reservists have just completed the latest in a number of specialised training sessions at the Army Medical Services Training Centre at Strensall, near York.

The training includes simulated medical emergencies, sometimes involving real amputees wearing expertly applied make-up to create the appearance of fresh blast injuries.

It's not the real thing, but the idea is to give reservists a taste of what they'll experience when they staff the Bastion hospital.

Heath, 35, served in Iraq for six months in 2005, but thinks her experiences in Afghanistan will be different: "I think I'll be more prepared than I was before I went to Iraq, but that's got a lot to do with the training we've done.

"Until we get out there, we don't know how we're going to feel, but you don't have as much anxiety once you've done one post."

The nurse stresses that while there she and the medical team will have to deal with typical war injuries such as blast and gunshot wounds, the hospital also treats soldiers with illnesses, and Afghan civilians.

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Certainly, Ministry of Defence figures show that while 158 armed forces personnel were seriously wounded in Afghanistan last year, and 1,229 were treated by field hospitals, 721 of them were suffering from diseases or non-battle injuries.

"You still have your walking wounded, and you have your strains and sprains and chest pains," explains Heath.

"There's a lot of what you normally do, but you have traumas on top."

While Heath knows there will be a lot of mental and physical pressure out there, she insists: "We're there to do our jobs and look after the lads.

"They're the ones that have the hardships, the ones that are working on the ground.

"I want to serve my country and I want to look after our lads and girls."

She adds: "You'd be inhuman if it didn't affect you. It affects everybody, and everyone learns to deal with things in different ways."

One of the team supporting medical staff like Heath as they treat patients at Bastion will be Major John Hewitt, a biomedical scientist from Stockport who normally works at Manchester Royal Infirmary.

He'll be working in a small lab in the field hospital, dealing with blood transfusions, haematology and chemistry.

So if a wounded soldier needs a transfusion urgently, Hewitt will find compatible blood.

At Bastion, the labs are beside the operating theatres, and Hewitt says: "We'll be in the middle of things, and that's something I've never seen before - I've worked in hospitals all my life, and the casualty department has usually been at the end of a phone line. This will be much more real.

"It'll be great to talk to the doctors and nurses, and see how what we do supports them."

The 52-year-old says that although he can't be certain of how he'll feel until he's actually working in the field hospital, he believes he's "quite well-prepared" for what's to come, thanks to the training.

The training centre in Strensall, which is laid out like the hospital in Bastion, and has the same equipment and documentation.

Medical staff who are due to be deployed go to Strensall at various stages in their pre-deployment period.

There they receive background training, and are put through a series of exercises with real-time stories and casualties that are made to look convincing by a make-up artist.

The training centre is run by Colonel Janet Pilgrim, a trained nurse from the regular army's Queen Alexandra Royal Army Nursing Corps.

She says: "We're doing the collective piece - all the team-building, and getting them used to the anomalies of working in a theatre like Afghanistan."

Real amputees, Afghan actors, and young soldiers from the regular army, often wearing realistic 'injury make-up', act as patients at Strensall.

"It's got to be realistic as it gets them into the training zone - there's little point in us doing this half-heartedly because it's important that they understand what they'll have to face," stresses Pilgrim.

The reservists are trained in dealing with a multitude of illnesses and accidents, as well as blast injuries, as such injuries are often not the main problem treated at the hospital.

"It's the diarrhoea and vomiting and the skin disorders, or they might have malaria," says Pilgrim.

"The soldiers still get appendicitis out there, or fall off a lorry and hurt their back.

"We feed in all those medical scenarios as well - we don't purely give them training for blast and gunshot wounds."

She explains that as well as dealing with injuries and illnesses in a war zone, part of the training looks at what happens to the soldiers, airmen and sailors when they're discharged.

In some cases, that means contacting the RAF to make sure an aircraft is available to fly them home.

To cater for such possibilities, an Air Evacuation Liaison officer and the Critical Care Support team train with the reservists.

Pilgrim says the Strensall centre pulls together extremely skilled clinical people who go on to do a "superb job" in Afghanistan.

But she adds: "I don't think we can ever fully prepare them for what they might see out there, but the training certainly takes the edge off it, and gives them the confidence to be able to do their job."

Colonel Robin Jackson, a Lancaster GP who joined the TA in 1981, is the commanding officer of 207 Field Hospital.

He is justifiably proud of his staff and the Bastion hospital, which boasts full x-ray facilities, CT scanners and blood transfusion and lab services.

He says: "If you walked into our hospital in Bastion, you'd think you were in an NHS hospital.

"It's a superb facility - in fact, it's probably better equipped than the average NHS hospital."

The Bastion hospital is staffed by TA units on a three-month rotation with the regular army, so medical services can be sustained without having an adverse impact on the NHS in the UK.

"We're not draining NHS resources by taking lots of reservists away from the hospitals they work in," explains Jackson.

He describes the way such efficient medical teams are created so quickly as "quite awesome", and stresses that the medics return to the UK after their tour of duty armed with new skills and confidence that the NHS then benefits from.

Jackson has warned employers to be mindful of the "challenges" their employees will have faced in Afghanistan when they return to work.

However, he points out: "Equally, they need to be aware of what they've gained from that and how they can use those new skills to the benefit of all patients in the NHS."

He adds: "I would go so far as to say it's a life-enhancing experience for the reservists.

"They come back feeling their life has changed for the better because they've been with a bunch of people with a common aim - to sort out the patient on the bed and patch them up.

"There will be times for quiet reflection afterwards, but professionalism is the key to making it work."

British casualty arrives at Camp Bastion field hospital, Helmand Province, Afghanistan, after being injured in a IED explosion.

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Men's beauty secrets

Lisa Haynes delves into the grooming world to treat your man to guy-friendly beauty gifts.

When it comes to bathroom pampering, the very mention of the word 'beauty' used to have men running for cover to the pub quicker than you can say World Cup kick-off.

But then the likes of David Beckham came along advertising guy-focused products and suddenly grooming became a whole different ball game.

A lot of it came down to the product marketing. If men thought eye creams and split-end serums were for wusses, they might have no qualms about stocking up on manly 'anti-fatigue sticks' and 'hair putty' instead.

Now it seems male grooming has gone a step further... Forget the alpha male-pleasing, turbo-charged products, men are now openly raiding their partners' beauty haul and looking beyond the powdery scents and flowery packaging.

Over the past year there's been a 50% increase in male customers requesting advice about buying women's products for their own use at ChemistDirect.co.uk.

With products such as hair straighteners, waxing strips and St Tropez topping their must-have list, guys are unashamedly embracing the man-makeover.

So ladies, keep your favourite products under lock and key. With the focus firmly on the boys at the moment, your man might just be hogging the mirror more than usual.

Product pilfering

Just in case you were in any doubt about how much the non-fairer sex value their mirror image, the male cosmetic market is growing at twice the rate of women's in the UK, according to L'Oreal's recent Men's Grooming Report 2010.

But despite the growth of male-targeted products, the study identifies 39% of men are still opting to use products designed for women as a part of their daily grooming routine.

On a list of can't-live-without products, fake tan came second only to shampoo in L'Oreal's survey, so Tango hand culprits should be easy to spot!

"Whilst male grooming is big business, this is a new development - we're talking about men contacting our sales teams for advice on how they can use women's beauty treatments," explains Mitesh Soma, founder of Chemistdirect.co.uk.

Crabtree & Evelyn Edwin Jagger imitation ivory nickel shaving set, £100/ €120 (www.crabtree-evelyn.co.uk).

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"Enquiries include asking which hair straighteners are best, how they should apply fake tan and whether they should use concealer before or after they shave.

"Some tell us they started secretly using their partner's beauty gear out of curiosity and they liked it so much they now want their own," he reveals.

Jab generation

The male grooming business in the UK has swelled to more than £600 million (€719 million) but guys are also shunning the masculine hype and seeking products and treatments that work for them.

"The typical grooming consumer is changing," explains Dr Sach Mohan, non-surgical director of Transform.

"Men are becoming far more skin-savvy and less gullible when it comes to the sales and marketing techniques that brands are using. I now spend at least 15 minutes with most male clients discussing clinically proven skin products, and what they really should be using and how."

Signing up for the likes of Botox, fillers and dermarollers, fellas make up around a third of Dr Mohan's client list, who says: "The stigma is firmly lifted, though not to the point where men ask their mates 'Who do you go to, dahling?' down the pub!

"It's a closely guarded secret for most men, where their booking entry will be for Botox 'for migraines' or 'curing excessive sweating', when in most cases they'll eventually end up having Botox or fillers for virtually total cosmetic reasons."

Grooming gifts

Skip on the unimaginative socks and treat your man to these bathroom cabinet delights to enhance his grooming routine and stop him stealing your stash.

• Mr Traditionalist

If your man likes old school products, tools and grooming methods, try Crabtree & Evelyn's Edwin Jagger Imitation Ivory Nickel Shaving Set (www.crabtree-evelyn.co.uk)

• Jet setter

For men who always seem to pack a holdall for business (or golf) trips, help him avoid the wrath of airport security with a handy stowaway of minis like Nickel's Travel Kit (www.nickelspalondon.co.uk); or Liz Earle Men's Travel Kit (www.lizearle.co.uk).

• Designer dude

Poseur men who like flashing labels and flaunting their designer knowledge will love Jean Paul Gaultier's Super Le Male Collector or GivenchyMan's Pro-Energising Massive Moisturiser (www.harrods.com).

The family way

Nothing can replace the precious time when mums or dads read bedtime stories to their children. Lisa Salmon looks at the weird, wonderful and sometimes weary world of parenting.

But sometimes busy lives can get in the way of bedtime stories - and that's why a group of dads have found a way to add a personal touch to storytime, even when mum and dad aren't there.

They've created a website where parents, grandparents, or even kids themselves, can make personalised story recordings, complete with sound effects, music and personal messages.

The idea originated from dad Chris Coombs, who loved reading to his four-year-old daughter, and knew she'd miss his stories when he had to go abroad.

So he recorded the stories for little Laura to listen to while he was away - and because he's an audio editor and dubbing mixer, they were complete with realistic sound effects.

The recordings were so good that Coombs and four of his friends, who were also dads, decided to make it possible for all parents to create such personalised children's audio-books.

Coombs and his pals - dads to a total of 14 children - have now, after years of work, set up a website for what they call the Magical Story Machine (www.magicalstorymachine.com), where recordings of children's stories can be made, complete with music and sound effects.

Coombs, a dad-of-two who lives in Kingston-upon-Thames, explains: "I wanted my four-year-old to know that even though I was away for a few weeks, she was always in my thoughts.

"So I took some of her favourite stories to work, recorded myself reading them, and created sound-effects, so they were personalised audio-books for her.

"After that I invited my a friend to do one for his son, and he suggested that we probably weren't the only ones that had this need - modern life takes people to the far corners of the world, and sometimes it's difficult to stay together."

After discussing the fledgling idea at a dinner party, the dads eventually formed a company, aptly called Five Dads Ltd, and took the idea to web experts to bring it to fruition.

On the site, which was launched this month, readers choose one of the stories - which range from Room on the Broom and Laura's Star, to Three Little Pigs and Goldilocks - and pay between £4.95 and £5.95 (€6-7.20), before recording the story by reading the words on screen at a leisurely pace.

Readers can listen back, with or without the sound effects, as they record.

A personal message to the child can also be recorded at the beginning or end of the story.

It's then mixed with the music and sound effects, and can be listened to there and then, or downloaded and put on an iPod, MP3 player etc.

Coombs, 45, proudly says: "Nothing in the world replaces being with your children to read to them.

"But if you're a soldier, work on an oil rig, are divorced, or are grandparents living thousands of miles away, this allows you to maintain a connection with your child.

"It's a wonderful way to be there to tuck them in when you can't physically be there.

"If your voice can be soothingly reading them a story, they'll feel that you value them even if you're not there."

He adds: "If you can use technology to increase a child's enthusiasm and interest in books, that can't be bad."

One of the Five Dads is Scott Paton, an advertising director from Oxfordshire who used to spend more than 120 nights a year working abroad and away from his two children, now aged 10 and seven.

He says: "As a father, the idea of a finding a way to be there for storytime even when I wasn't there seemed like a great idea.

"When we started to work on the beginning of what's now the Magical Story Machine, it seemed like a neat answer to a real problem of modern lives.

"My kids loved the early recordings of stories I did."

The National Literacy Trust (NLT) believes children can build on their literacy skills and learn to love reading through a range of technology including e-readers, computers and DVDs.

Sarah De Zoysa, manager of the NLT's National Reading Network for Schools and Early Years Settings, says: "In today's digital age we firmly believe all technology that supports literacy development must be embraced.

"Access to reading materials in the home, whatever form they may take, is essential for children to develop the literacy skills they need to do well at school and to enjoy opportunities throughout their life."

She points out that one in six young people in the UK will grow up without the literacy skills they need to fulfil their potential.

One of the ways the NLT is campaigning to change this is through a new campaign called Tell Me a Story.

"The campaign is to raise awareness that every child has the right to share stories," she says.

"We want everyone to pledge to spend 10 minutes reading with the child in their life every day - that's all it takes to make a real difference to a child's future."

• To pledge online for the Tell Me a Story campaign, visit: www.literacytrust.org.uk/tellmeastory.

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Food for dad to remember

When Miranda Gardiner's dad was widowed, while learning to live without his soul mate, he had to learn to cook. His daughter came to the rescue, and in her new book passes on her wisdom to Sarah O'Meara

When Miranda Gardiner's mother Rosalind died from cancer in 2005, her father not only lost his soul mate of 40 years, but the metaphorical keys to their kitchen.

"The analogy that seemed most apt is that of a passenger in a car," says chef Miranda of her father, Richard, 64, who has spent the last five years learning to cook from scratch.

"He's always been a passenger and had the end product served up to him, but how it got there was a bit of a mystery."

In her new book Teaching Dad To Cook Flapjack, Miranda reveals how her father began by living off beans on toast and then started ringing his daughter.

The recipe book charts her attempts to set him on the right track.

"The things he found the most difficult were all the peripheral stuff like sell-by dates, defrosting, and cooking techniques.

"He had no idea how to steam something, but has got into all the gadgets," she explains.

With Richard in Cornwall, and mother-of-three Miranda living in Devon, her tutorials have been all delivered by telephone, and ranged from how to poach eggs, to cooking veggies.

"I could have done the natural thing, and cooked loads of food, frozen it and taken it over. But that's just a short-term solution."

Instead, Miranda verbally helped her father over some hurdles, and listened as he related tales of his new "tower steamer" that could do five vegetables at once.

She adds that her mum would have been surprised by developments.

"In the old days if I had rung up and dad answered, I'd have instantly been handed over to mum.

"Now he might phone me up three times a day, just to remark on something, because he hasn't got anyone else there. We've grown closer in areas that we weren't before."

For Father's Day, Miranda is planning something a little bit special. And she suggests that the way to guarantee a happy dad is to keep the menu simple.

"I'm tempted to say that I'll cook Shepherds Cottage, which is my version of shepherd's pie.

"It's a mixture of beef and lamb, and works because it's so homely. So many people say to me that when they go home, that's what their mum cooks for them. So that seems about right."

While Richard hasn't entirely followed in his wife's culinary footsteps, according to Miranda - "He's done things in his own way and when he found the local farm shop he was off" - he does know one recipe which keeps his wife's memory alive.

"The flapjack is something mum used to make, so that was one of the few dishes I actually showed him how to make in person - partly because it was so easy.

"I knew he didn't have weighing scales, so I showed him using cups, and cutting the butter. It was nostalgic and reminded us both of mum."

Bacon and egg pie

(Serves 6-8)

250g shortcrust pastry
90g cold unsalted butter for the filling
3 tbsps olive oil
2 large red onions
1 tbsp sugar
400g back bacon or pancetta, chopped
6 eggs
Salt and pepper
50g pine nuts
Handful of flat-leaf parsley, torn

To make pastry:
180g plain flour
90g cold unsalted butter
A pinch of salt
2-3 tbsps ice-cold water

Combine the flour, salt and butter in a food-processor and blitz until crumbly. Add the ice-cold water a little at a time until the dough comes together to form a ball. Wrap it in clingfilm and leave in the fridge for 30 minutes (or freeze for another day) while you make the filling.

Preheat the oven to 180C/Gas Mark 4 and start making the filling.

Heat the olive oil in a large thick-based pan over a moderate heat. Add the chopped onion and soft brown sugar and cook, stirring, for about 10 minutes. Then add the chopped bacon and cook for another 5 minutes until things have softened. The bacon needs to maintain a juicy pink colour, and not become crispy.

While the filling is cooking, whisk the eggs in a jug and season well with salt and pepper. Set this aside for the moment.

Remove the pastry from the fridge and roll it out to fit a 30cm tart tin. Bake blind for 15-20 minutes, until the pastry is lightly coloured and dry. Turn the oven down to 170C/Gas Mark 3.

Arrange the bacon-and-onion mixture on the base of the pie case, then pour over the seasoned egg mixture. Sprinkle with fresh torn parsley and pine nuts. Cook for 35-40 minutes until the tart is golden brown and feels firm in the centre

Chewy flapjack

(16 slices)

300g butter
4 tablespoons golden syrup
340g golden caster sugar, or use 170g golden caster sugar and 170g rapadura sugar
200ml condensed milk
500g porridge oats

Preheat the oven to 160C/Gas mark 3 and line a 33cm x 23cm roasting tin with baking parchment.

In a large, heavy-based pan melt together the butter, syrup and sugar over a low heat. When they have all mingled and melted, add the condensed milk and remove from the heat. Mix in the oats until covered by the caramel mixture.

Pour the mixture into the tin and pat down with a spatula; you don't have to be too fussy about this as, in the oven, it acts like a self-levelling floor screed and forms it own perfect level. Cook for about 15-20 minutes. When the flapjack starts to brown around the edges of the tin then it's time to take it out - it will still be relatively pale in the middle. Cut into 16 pieces when still warm, but not straight away, as it tends to 'cook' back together again.

If you would like to decorate the flapjack, let it cool, then melt some dark chocolate in a bowl over just-poured boiling water.

Make piping bags out of 20cm squares of parchment paper (cut the square in half diagonally to make two triangles, then make the long side into the nozzle by rolling it up). Pipe chocolate words, smiley faces, one-eyed monsters... until the chocolate and creative flair dry up.

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Goldra dogs had fun at the Algarve Dog Show

The whole reason behind The Algarve Dog Show was to raise money to help all the wonderful people out there that spend so much time and energy with the finding of homes for the dogs that have been deserted. Yes in the UK the various charities 'pick up the pieces', however friends tell me they do not do as much as they used to. I was quoted a horrendous number for the amount of dogs in shelters in the UK.

So we have had the big problem of Goldra closing this year. This has involved so many people in hours of work and expense, expense out of their own money to the greatest extent. Originally there were 110 dogs needing homes and 60 cats. The list is shrinking but it takes time.

However 3 of them came to the Show at the weekend and had fun---remembering these are dogs that have spent too long in a kennel existence so they are not used to houses, people and cars.

I have been sent three stories which I will add here.

If you can offer homes to any of these dogs please ring Laura 927 921 635 Katy 919 100 160

Please check the web page at www.quintinha-animalcentre.org for a full updated list of doggies, and cats needing homes.

Paula went to the dog show on Sunday and was excellent with children, a twelve year old entered her in the ring and she was very obedient. Unfortunately she did not win anything. She became very attached to her "person", is very intelligent and would love to find a home. I had the pleasure of walking Paula around the dog show at the Fatacil on Saturday, although she was very nervous as her first time out of the kennels in a while, she behaved very well, she is so eager to be with people, lots of people fell in love with her, she is inquisitive and friendly. She walked well on the lead, though quite strong and was excellent with all the other dogs and people. She so wanted to be friends with every person we met.

She is a very intelligent sweet dog and I think would be quick to learn. Her characteristics make me think she may have collie in her as she is very clever. I would love to help find her a home and felt so sad that she had to go back to the kennels after she was so good at the show. Medium 3/4 years old spayed, vaccinated, microchipped, tested negative for leisch and heartworm.

Nona is a well behaved, calm dog who walks well on the lead. Considering she has only been in a car on a handful of occasions she settles well and I hope her next car journey is to a new home. Despite being in the shelter for some time she was fantastic with people and other dogs we met at the dog show. Unexpected loud noises such as balloons bursting in the heat did not concern her and when not walking around she was happy to lie at my feet. Nona would fit easily into the routine of a new home and reward her new owners in turn with loyalty and commitment, as well as being a great excuse to enjoy the weather and go for a walk. 4 years old / 60 cms, spayed, vaccinated, micro chipped, tested neg. for leisch. and heartworm

Ally. I was so impressed by her impeccable behaviour today. She was a little reluctant to go in the cage in the back of my car to the Dog Show in Lagoa, but once she was in and we set off on the quite long drive (for a dog who was in a car for the first time) she was excellent. She sat quietly for the whole journey.

Once we arrived, she walked perfectly on her lead, she mingled in the crowds of people, other dogs and children, as if she had spent her life doing it.

We even entered her into a "Waggy Tail Dog Competition" with about 7 other dogs, she walked and ran perfectly by my side.

Balloons burst, children shouted, dogs barked, people stopped to stroke her, she behaved like a gentle well trained dog.

She is a total pleasure to be with, I would love to own her myself, she will make someone an adorably loving pet.

Paula, Ally and Nona were all better at the dog show than many of the dogs there who came from homes! They happily surprised us all.

Laura 927 921 635
Katy 919 100 160
quintinha-animalcentre.org

Milo & Me

Ah, what a difference a weekend away makes.

Or in our case, three brilliant days in Madrid.

Despite a previous, somewhat flawed attempt at dog-sitting my mum agreed to give it another go and stuck out the 72 hours with Mad Milo like a real trooper.

Thankfully, this time he behaved himself "a lot better", particularly with Natalie, the nine-year-old daughter of my mum's friend Irene, who came over to visit on Sunday. Apparently, Milo was an "angel" when walked by Natalie, who handles him "much better than you, Carrie - he didn't pull, or jump, and did everything she told him to"… Marvellous, isn't it?

I've noticed this though - he's as wired as a fire-cracker most of the time but gentle as a lamb with children. I think there's some unwritten law of nature that bonds children and animals and allows them to get the upper hand over us unsuspecting adults; to make us feel a bit inadequate and remind us that we don't always do things better.

Proof of this are my mum's claims that Milo was as well-behaved for her as he was for Natalie. However, the owner of the local fruit and veg shop told me she had seen Milo "dragging a blond lady up the hill" and I knew that nature's conspiracies had struck again.

Anyway, the weather in Madrid was fantastic (which more than made up for the dismal football match we saw last Friday evening). We came back so relaxed that initially we were almost indifferent to the massive hole that had taken shape in the back garden during our absence.

At first I thought maybe a meteorite had crash-landed there and left a bit of a crater; but two muddy front paws and a dirty nose sort of gave it away. So I took it as a hint that Milo would like a fish pond.

But, inevitably, as the week has gone by the hole has become more and more difficult to overlook.

We still haven't fixed our Sky TV and now we've found another chewed cable that looks suspiciously like the TV Cabo flex. If that goes too - our last surviving connection to the outside world (well, to the World Cup games) - I fear Milo's (and my) days may be counted.

It's becoming a bit of an expensive exercise, patching up all of his creative alterations to our home; the paw-prints on the walls, the dents in the garden bench, the holes in our clothes… And I'm starting to run out of excuses - I mean, would a meteorite really fall in our back garden? (Well, with my luck - probably!)

So I'm hoping that the hole is filled up soon and the grass grows back quickly or it may end up serving more than one purpose… If there's no 'Milo and Me' update next week, it's probably because we're in the garden - literally!

Carrie-Marie Bratley

Hi There !

Scooby, before...

SCOOBY, a cross Sharpei of 15 kgs was found on the road in November 2009 dying of hunger. We have never seen such a thin dog. We took him to the vet and he had all blood tests done and to our surprise, he did not have leshmaniasis. He only had tick fever but we had him treated immediately. He was simply starved. We think he might have been closed in a 'holiday' property without anyone bringing him food until he managed to escape. Seven months later, he is still with us, but seems a different dog - he is healthy, has put on considerable weight and seems to be very grateful for the new life we have given him. He is gentle with people and friendly with other dogs. He is around 4 years old. After all he has been through, it is time he ended up in an exceptionally good home. If you would like to adopt him, please contact us at: sesimbra.bianca@gmail.com or visit www.bianca.ot/english

Scooby, after!

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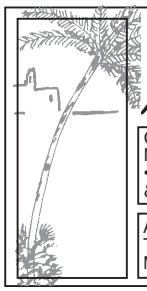

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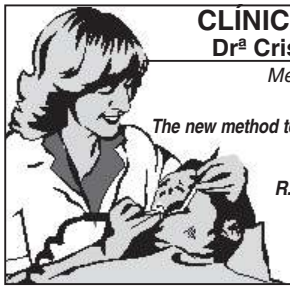

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BAPTIST MISSION - Esgueira (Aveiro) Traditional Baptist church service in English on Sunday at 5pm. Contact: Pastor David Loop Tel 965-363-986.

RIVERSIDE INT. CHURCH ABLA (next to Riviera Hotel), Praceta Infante D. Henrique, N° 80, Qta do Junqueiro, 2775-584 Carcavelos. Sunday at 10:30 in English

THE DOOR Christian Int. Church Cidade Desportiva, Praceta Carlos Capitulo, Loja "B" Massama / Queluz, Sunday 10:30am & 7:00pm. Pastor Frank Escobar at 21-467-3386 or Mobile 919 086 683 (Church of England). Rua S.Jorge. Enter through British Cemetery gate opp Jardim da Estrela. Service 11.45am Sunday. Tel. 21 4692303.

ST PAUL'S CHURCH, ESTORIL (Church of England). Av. Bombeiros Voluntários 59 (behind Hotel Sana Estoril). Sunday School. Service 10.00 am every Sunday. Tel. 21.4692303.

ST. MARY'S, S. PEDRO DO ESTORIL 368 Rua do Murtal, Mass each Sunday and Holyday 10.15am Tel. 21 467 3771

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND (PRESBYTERIAN) Rua Arriaga, 13, Lisbon: Sun. 11.00. Bi-lingual Sunday school & creche is available. Minister's Tel: 214 837 885, www.standrewslisbon.com

CASCAIS INT. CHRISTIAN CHURCH Av. de Sintra, N° 1154, Cascais (Tel: 21 486 1856). Sunday English worship 10.30. An int. evangelical fellowship, nursery provided, children's church programme, mid-week bible studies.

THE SALVATION ARMY, LISBON Reboleira Corps (Praceta Almada Negreiro, Lote 213 Loja Dt do Exército 11 A); Chelas Corps (Rua Rui de Sousa, Lote 65 A loja C); Laranjeiras Corps (Bairro de Laranjeiras). At all these corps: Morning 9.30am Salvation Meeting 5.00pm Picheleira Corp Rua Capitão Roby, Picheleira, Lisbon (21 805708).

LISBON SYNAGOGUE: Rua Alexandre Herculano 59, Tel 213 931 130 Fax 213 884 304 e-mail: celesboa@mail.telepac.pt

IGREJA BAPTISTA de Queijas (close to Cascais) Rua Carlos Santos 8B, Queijas Near the Olympic Stadium off the A5. Tel: 214 172 087. Sunday Service: English 10:15 Prayer and Bible Study:Thursday 8pm Traditional Baptist Service in English followed by Sunday School.

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES - Public Talk in English. Rua João de Deus, 76. Sintra. (Behind Sintra train station). Sunday 1.30pm. Tel: 214 690 600. Also Rua da Barroca, 122 (Bairro Alto), Lisbon. Sunday 11am. Tel: 213 421 604. (Chinese: Saturday 3pm).

The Algarve

ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH, ALGARVE Holy Communion every Sunday. **Almancil** 10.30am with Adventurers at Almancil Community Centre (ASCA). **Lagoa** 6pm at Lagoa Convent Chapel. www.allsaints algarve.org or 282 380 311.

ST VINCENT'S ANGLICAN CHURCH C of E. Sundays: 9.30am Igreja N Sra de Fatima, N125 between Quatro Estradas & Almancil, 11.30am St Luke's, Gorjões, 8.00am & 12noon Igreja N Sra da Luz, Praia da Luz, near Lagos 918824584. www.stvincentsalgarve.org

THE SALVATION ARMY in São Bras de Alportel will hold on the 1st Sunday of each month an International Worship Service at the Salvation Army Citadel in São Bras at 5pm, Rua 25 de Abril, nº 19 (next to the Market).

INT. CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP Sunday morning worship at 11am with Sunday School in English for children. Avda 25 de abril 17, Portimão. (opposite the municipal pool/piscina municpal) For more info call 282 461 985 or see <www.coaa.co.uk/icf.htm>

INT. COMMUNITY CHURCH in Lagos invites you to attend its services in English Sundays 10.30am. Newfrontiers Sunday School 5 Travessa de Santo Amaro, Lagos, Tel. 282-086804 or 282-697546, www.icc-lagos.org.

INT. EVANGELICAL CHURCH OF THE ALGARVE Warmly welcomes residents & visitors of all nationalities and denominations to their Sunday Services in Vale Judeu at 10.30. Blue sign on the N125 between the Vilamoura entrance & the Atlântico Waterslide Park. Creche and Sunday School. For further information: 289 328635.

CHURCH IN LAGOS. Sundays 10.30am at 14, Praca Luis de Camoes.In the historical building, upper room, in the centre of the old walled city of Lagos. Messianic Assembly. Contact Stefan Saunders (Pastor) 963 165 983, stefanjsaunders@yahoo.co.uk

LAGOA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP, English Speaking Calvary chapel of the Algarve, Christ Centred study of the Bible and modern worship, Sunday school available for toddlers to teens. Sunday services 11am Mid-week study 8pm Wednesdays. EN 125 Porches Retail Park, Vale de Lousas, Alcantarilha. Tel: 282 381 347 Pastor Gary O'Connor. www.lagoafellowship .org for more information

TAVIRA CHRISTIAN CENTRE Meetings in English, Sundays at 10.30 am at Av. Mateus Teixeira de Azevedo, 61A (Opposite Skippers Bar)
Full programme and further details from Jackie 281 322 857, Steve 917 872 665 and 917 872 559 or Maria 966 380 404. E-mail: jackieandmo @yahoo.co.uk

RESGATE DE VIDA, LAGOS, Raising up a new generation according to EPH.4 v 11-12, Church with a Brazilian Flavor. Portuguese speaking, Children Welcome. Meeting on Sundays 8pm - 10pm at Rua, Hospital S. João de Deus. For directions phone Pastors Sidney 963414757 or Anderson 962934005

SALVATION ARMY Service Sundays at 10.45am in Portuguese. Bible studies for children, adolescents and adults in Portuguese starting at 9.30 until 10.30. Rua 25 de Abril, nr. 19, São Brás de Alportel

ALL NATIONS, Todas as Nações, All welcome, contempory worship service and children's club. Carvoeiro Tennis Club, Mato Serrão Carvoeiro. Sundays 10.30am-12.00pm, Luke and Shelley 913362221

EREV SHABAT - For services Tel: 282 416710

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES - Public Talk in English. The New Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, 25 Largo Emgembeiro Sarrea Prado, Portimão (Next door to the University). Sunday 10.30am. School Thursday 7.30pm Tel: 282 485 495. (Chinese: Saturday 4pm) No collection. ALSO Sitio de Lagoas, Edificio Space Beautiful, Av 25 April. Ferreiras Albufeira. (Sunday 10am. School Wednesday 7.45pm Tel: 282 339 372.

Oporto

GREATER GRACE INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP has contemporary Christian gatherings on Sunday afternoons at 3rd Baptist Church, Rua Estacao 133, Porto, & Saturday evenings on the 1st floor at Confeitaria Palacio, Porto(across from the "Emergency" entrance of Hospital Santo Antonio); for meeting times, details and updated schedule visit www.NovaAurora.com, call 220 994 785 or send an SMS to 917 112 736.

RIVERSIDE PORTO INTERNATIONAL CHURCH – Oporto. A church that is fun and enriching; Bible based and relevant. Caring, supportive and international. Interdenominational meetings from 6pm Sundays at 1642 Avenida Sacadura Cabral, Aguda, VNG, between Aguda railway station and Miramar golf course. Call Tina or Bill Mason on 227 627 643 or 914 949 611 contact@riversideporto.com or www.riversideporto.com

ST. JAMES'S CHURCH, ANGLICAN CHAPLAINCY OF OPORTO. Largo da Maternidade, Júlio Dinis. Sun. 11am Details from Chaplain (22) 609 1006. www.stjamesoporto.org

THE SALVATION ARMY OPORTO Pereiro Corps (Av. Vasco da Gama No: 675-2 E Ramalde), Service 10am, Salvation Meeting 5.00pm. Coloras Corps. (Av. dos Bombeiros Voluntá-rios; Tel: 22 929 1077) Sun. 10am. Thurs 4.00pm Ladies Home League Meeting.

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES - Public Talk in English. Praça Don Afonso V, 168. Sunday 10.30am. Tel: 226 160 976.

Caldas da Rainha

ANGLICAN EVENING WORSHIP IN ENGLISH. On the **SECOND Sunday of each month,** 6:00pm in the Evangelical Baptist Church, Rua Dr. José Saudade e Silva 27/29, between Caldas da Rainha railway station and Pingo Doce. NB now *Second* Sunday monthly. For details please phone 262 881 393.

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES - Public Talk in English. Rua Adelino Amaro da Costa, next to CERCIP. 2520 Peniche,Óbidos. Sunday 11am (1st & 2nd Sunday of the month).

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Announcements

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CANCARE MEETINGS Have you been affected by Cancer? Members of the women's cancer support group meet for advice or an informal chat on the first Wednesday of every month in Loulé. If you would like to join us, please contact Vi on 289 882 680 or 917 962 255.

CASA - IS a local social group established over 20 years ago. A friendly group who have a monthly newsletter and at least one activity per month, usually dinners at local venues. We have and annual trip to Spain or within Portugal, plus other activities. Open o everyone. For more information and a sample newsletter give Mary a call on 282 357 275.

WEIGHT WISE slimming group meets weekly in 3 locations & helps you to loose weight following a well known, successful weight loss program. Meetings details are as follows:
Tuesdays 10.30am - Browns Sports & Leisure Club, Vilamoura
Wednesdays 11am-Mikki F Studio, Algoz
Thursdays 10.30am-Restaurante As Aves, Ladeira do Vau,Portimão
Thursdays 7.30pm-Mikki F Studio, Algoz. Cost is 20 euros per month or 6.50 euros per week. There is no joining fee.You can contact me on 939 536 347 or e mail wendyweightwise@yahoo.com for more details.

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CAR BOOT SALE held every 3rd Sunday of the month at 'Restaurant Quinta dos Areões', adjacent to the Veterinary clinic in Espiche. Stallholders pay from €3. All proceeds go to Rosco's Charity Association. Call Alfred on 919886955 or contact us on our website www.roscofoundation.org for more information.

SATURDAY 26 JUNE, 7.30pm - APAA's Indian and International Buffet with dancing at Hotel Garbe, Armação de Pera. Beautiful setting on the terraces overlooking the sea. Live music by the versatile Howard Parkin. €25 per head (half price for children under 12) includes buffet, dessert, wine and water. For reservations please phone Jenny 282 471 851/91 904 1903), Jane 282 320 260 or Alan 282 322 203.

O PELICANO The Indian Take Away would like to invite you to experience and take part in some of our cultural and themed events. Sunday 20th June - Indian Cultural Evening (19.00 till late) Sunday 27th June - Bollywood BBQ Lunch And Family Fun Day In Aid Of The New ASCA Care Home (11.00 - 16.00). There will be a variety of activities on the relevant dates ranging from Henna Tattoos, Fashion Shows, Fashion Accessories and Soft Furnishings, which promise to be fun-filled days for all the family. These are just a few of the events that we are planning for this year. We look forward to your support and trust that we will see you there. For ticket reservations, enquiries or further information please do not hesitate to contact us directly on 916 917 941 or 914 439 444

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CAR BOOT Sale held every 3rd Sunday of the month at 'Restaurant Quinta dos Areões', adjacent to the veterinary clinic, in Espiche. Stallholders pay €3. All proceeds to help abandoned animals. Call Michele on 919 457 263 or Happyhounds@mail.telepac.pt for info.

ALBUFEIRA ABA Charity shop,41D Avenida dò Tenis,Open Tues to Saturday 10.30 until 2pm.(next door to the Galeano Bar)on the road that leads to the Marina, from the dual carriageway.We are an independent charity, using the income from the shop for neuturing animals
Please help us by donating items for sale.

WANTED: THE donkey sanctuary needs your unwanted furniture, clothes, books and bric-a-brac for our charity shops in Lagoa and Monte Carvoeiro, all proceeds to aid donkeys in distress. We will collect larger items. Call Nan Richardson962 633 811, for details of our work for animal welfare. Please help.

THE NANDI Animal Charity Shops/Lagos sell clothes, shoes, household goods, furniture, children's toys, videos and books. Your custom and donations of your unwanted items help us care for stray/abandoned animals. Help us help the animals! Information & directions, call 918575533.

TAVIRA TREASURE Charity Shop. Tavira Christian Centre, Av. Mateus Teixeira de Azevedo, 61A (Opposite Skippers Bar). Come and browse, Come and bring clothing, Bric-a-Brac, Books. Open Wednesdays, 2.30–4.30 and Saturdays 10.30–12.30. Phone 917872559/913617991 for further details. Volunteers needed so we can open more frequently.

CHARITY SHOP, Montechoro, Albufeira (behind chemist's) needs volunteers to help in the shop. Please ring Lesley: 962 414 584

CHARITY BOOK Sale & Coffee Morning. 2,000 nearly new paperbacks at 60c. each. All proceeds in aid of The Boy's Home in Faro. Friendly atmosphere in pleasant surroundings. Every Friday from 10am to 12 noon, in the Village Hall, Monte da Palhagueira, Gorjões, Sta. Barbara de Nexe. Info. Tel: 289 990 901.

ALBUFEIRA ABA Charity shop,41D Avenida dò Tenis, Open Tues to Saturday 10.30 until 2pm.(next door to the Galeano Bar)on the road that leads to the Marina, from the dual carriageway. We are an independent charity, using the income from the shop for neutering animals. Please help us by donating items for sale.

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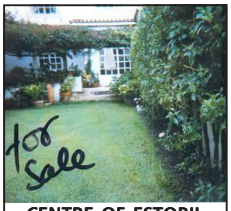

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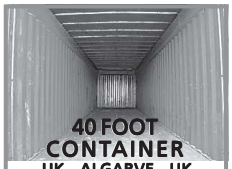

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The Caring Princes - Seeiso, Harry and William

Princes Harry and Seeiso arrived in Semonkong, high in the mountains of Lesotho, on a typical winter's day. Despite the clear skies, the temperature was around minus 10.

On Wednesday, 16th June, a helicopter carrying both Prince Harry and Prince Seeiso touched down in the kingdom landlocked by South Africa.

Both Princes climbed on horses and set off through the small tin-shack shops scattered across the Semonkong town centre. Horses are the usual mode of transport in the high mountains, where even off-road vehicles have been found to struggle.

Prince Seeiso is the younger brother of King Letsie III of Lesotho. The prince is also Lesotho Ambassador to the United Kingdom.

Both Princes founded 'Sentebale' the Lesotho charity to help OVCs (orphans and vulnerable children).

The Princes were are in Semonkong to meet shepherd students at two separate shepherd schools. One of these is run by the local Roman Catholic church and the other is run by the SCC (Sentebale Children's Centre).

The Princes were also in Lesotho to visit SCC and meet the orphans housed by this Christian charity. 'Sentebale' help them with core costs, being payment of wages and a donation to food costs. "It is a huge help for which we are very grateful" a spokesperson for the SCC explained this week.

Jill Kinsey of the SCC explained that she was asked if the Princes' involvement with Lesotho orphans could be simply a PR exercise? According to her, the picture of Prince William at the Sentebale children's centre is evidence that is clearly not the case.

"When our children began singing at the start of their 'drama' - a tear slipped down Prince Harry's cheek", Jill Kinsey recalls. "I guess Royals shouldn't show their emotions!. His heart is surely with our vulnerable children."

The Semonkong Centre began in February 2006 and is home to over 85 children who are either orphans or destitute. It was started by former Algarve resident Jill Kinsey but is now run by missionaries, Tara and Patrick Baanen (Jill's daughter and son-in-law).

Meanwhile, Jill started another Children's Centre in October 2008 in a village called Pulane, which is already home to over 50 children.

Jill personally fundraises worldwide to provide a quality of life for these youngsters who would have no future. Sentebale Charity provides some financial support for 'core' costs in Semonkong, but monies are still needed daily for running costs in Semonkong and all costs in Pulane.

If you would like to help this very worthwhile cause, here are the deposit details:

Jill Kinsey.
Account no: 5-2009014-000-00/0634.
Bank: B.P.I. in Lagoa.

Bank Address: Rua Mouzinho Albuquerque 74, 8400-384, Lagoa. Algarve.

SCC children entertained the three princes with a short show in the church building where they sing beautifully. Harry (with Bokang on his knee)and William after the show.

Prince William talking to Annacletta who has cerebral Palsy.

Harry in Basotho blanket

Harry and William receiving a gift after the show.

Harry and Seeiso on horseback. Prince Seeiso and Prince Harry are the founders of Sentebale (forget me not), the Children's Charity they set up to assist orphans and vulnerable children in Lesotho. Semonkong Children's Centre is a project they partner. Their visit to Semonkong was to visit local Shepherd schools and to visit the Semonkong Children's Centre.

The Princes obviously enjoying their time with the SCC children

At Semonkong Childrens Centre 17-06 left to right: Patrick Baanen, Prince William, Prince Seeiso and Prince Harry .

Prince William and Prince Harry enjoy receiving their football shirts for the foot ball game

Prince Harry in his girl's football team. 1st row, Tina, Mary, Harry, Alphonsina, Agnes. 2nd row Gladys, Clementina, Theresia, Paulina.

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Seven of the best

Cristiano Ronaldo is seen before the FIFA World Cup 2010 group G preliminary round match between Portugal and North Korea at the Green Point stadium in Cape Town, South Africa, 21 June 2010. Portugal won 7-0. (Photo: EPA/Franck Robichon)

Brendan de Beer

A weapon of mass destruction has been unleashed and North Korea has been the unwilling recipient. If ever a single sporting performance has silenced the critics and united an entire nation, it was Monday's demolition by the Portuguese national team of their hapless North Korean counterparts.

In the lead up to the game, Portugal, so lacklustre in their goalless draw six days earlier against the Ivory Coast, were taking no chances against the Asians, who had performed surprisingly well in their 2-1 defeat to Brazil last week.

Victory, and the accompanying three points, was all that mattered, no matter by what margin or by what methods.

Returning to the changing rooms with a slender one goal advantage, albeit after also rattling the Korean team's woodwork on two separate occasions and dominating proceedings, there was still a sense of trepidation on the pitch and off it. A draw would mean the national team would be enjoying some southern European sunshine by as early as this weekend, and the Koreans had revealed glimpses of how effective their counter-attacks could be during the first 45 minutes of the game.

But such fears were soon dispelled as Portugal rammed home six more goals in the second-half of this do-or-die encounter. They could have had a hatful more had they been less wasteful in front of goal.

Carlos Queiroz had rung the changes to the team, benching playmaker Deco, who had earlier criticised his boss's tactics against the Ivory Coast.

Similarly, Chelsea reserve team full-back Paulo Ferreira was sacrificed from the opening game's starting eleven and so too were Danny and Liedson.

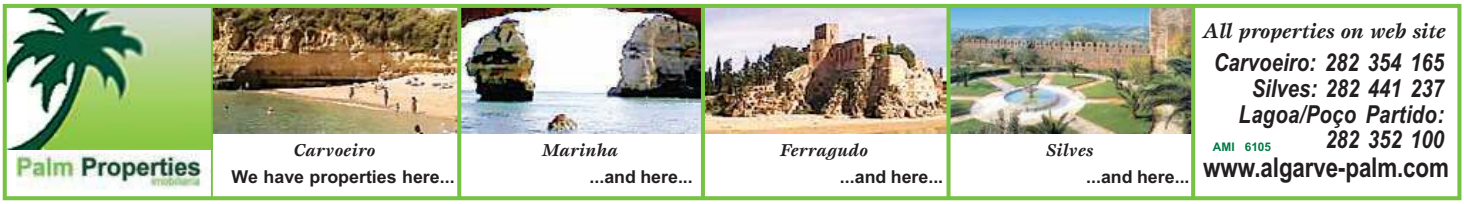
These four changes appeared to reinvigorate the unimaginative team that bored the world the week before, reminding doubters that Portugal is at its most dangerous when under-estimated.

Not that the North Koreans did that. They simply had no answer to the swift passing and endless energy shown by the Portuguese as they slowly, but surely, succumbed to a team which many now argue can go all the way to the final.

The second-half annihilation inflicted on the Koreans reminded the world that while many of Portugal's top footballers may have peaked, they were giving it their all in this, their swansong.

Simão Sabrosa, Ricardo Carvalho and Pedro Mendes, all in their 30s, showed that experience and class cannot be replaced by youth and that they could still do their on-the-pitch duties as well as anyone. Though, Benfica's Fábio Coentrão is at left-back now surely up there with Ashley Cole as one of the world's best in his position after a flawless season at Benfica which has followed up with two brilliant displays in the World Cup.

However, his true test of maturity will come this Friday against the adventurous Brazilians, who will undoubtedly find a chink in the 22-year old's armour if there is one.

Portugal's chances of not qualifying for the knock-out phase of the World Cup are now slim, and would require two rather unusual, though not impossible results. First, Brazil will have to beat Portugal by a winning margin of three goals, followed by the Ivory Coast emulating Portugal by scoring seven against the North Koreans. While they will be flying back home on Saturday, they will be playing for lost pride on Friday afternoon and the obvious need to provide a better showing of themselves to the world and their compatriots should see them escape another drubbing.

Carlos Queiroz said after the game that he believed the result would bring renewed "confidence, ambition and intelligence" to the team, and with Cristiano Ronaldo breaking his two-year duck of not scoring an official goal in a Portugal shirt, fans can be forgiven for thinking that there will be no need for complicated mathematics at around 5pm on Friday afternoon. Instead, other permutations will come into play, such as which of either Brazil or Portugal gets to face tournament favourites Spain in the next round, assuming of course that they beat Chile over the weekend.